NEWS / A2

Enrile turns up word war with De Venecia

BUSINESS / B1

Corruption, poor infrastructure dragging RP competitiveness

NEWS / A10

Saguisag finally told his wife was killed in accident

ENTERTAINMENT / F1

Dollywood: Dennis Trillo's love menace

Norman Mailer, towering literary figure, dies at 84

NEW YORK—NORMAN MAILER, THE PUGnacious prince of American letters who for decades reigned as Hemingway's successor, contender and provocateur with such books as "The Naked and the Dead" and "The Executioner's Song," has died of the ripe old 84.

Mailer died on Saturday of acute renal

SATURDAY A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, November 12, 2007 ★ Vol. 21 / No. 337 www.inquirer.net

Chubby may be the new healthy, the new beautiful

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Comelec security beefed up

Cops seek videotape for clues to killing

By Nikko Dizon
Lilia B. Saberonia
and Alison W. Lopez

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERday pledged to bolster security for officials of the Commission on Elections under death threats, even as police exposed huge video footage would yield clues to the identity of the assassin who gunned down the Comelec's legal chief on a busy Ermita street.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said poll officials had received "many" death threats, mostly through text messages, and that some of the threats were related to election disputes.

"We will see to it that appropriate security measures are given to these officials," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters after attending a ceremony commemorating 10 Veterans' Day at the American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio.

"The President has given out specific instructions to the police to solve this criminal act immediately," Ermita said.

Asked later to elaborate on his remarks about increasing security for Comelec officials, he said: "If there is a threat, they must probably (ask) request for security."

The chief of the Comelec's legal department, Allaben Tabalno Delorig, 44, was gunned down by an unknown assassin on Remedios night as he was about to cross the street toward Hyatt Hotel and Casino. He was pronounced dead at the Ospital ng Maynila Dona Soledad Medical Center.

Police said video footage taken from

DOMAGSO A10

ENGLISHMAN Darryl Peach raises his arm in triumph after Filipino Rubenio Gomez (right) is ruled the World Pool victim at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

World Pool: Nerves fail 'Superman'

By Hsaong S. Castillo

THE SUPERMAN CHEAT COULD not handle the pressure.

Filipino Robert Gomez succumbed to nerves in what would have been his moment of glory last night and yielded a thrilling 15-17 decision to Englishman Darryl Peach in the title match of the $400,000 World Pool Championship before a packed Araneta Coliseum gallery.

Gomez blundered so many shots, but none bigger than what looked like a routine cut shot on the yellow stripped 9 in the 32nd rack which would have put him on the hill and the chance to break for the championship.

Instead, he gave the clean-shaven Peach a 16-15 lead and the perfect opportunity to win the one-seven match that took all of three hours and 45 minutes to conclude.

It wasn't exactly the dramatic ending an entire country had waited for the 29-year-old Gomez, the first qualifier to ever make the title match and who came so close to packing it up a notch.

WORLD A11

Resign-snap poll bid has no critical mass

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

Gov to use cash gift for park garden

By Carmela Reyes
Inquirer Central Luzon

VETERANS' DAY
US Ambassador Kristie Kenney talks to Filipino war veterans President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during Veterans' Day ceremonies at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City.

At 24, Fil-Am soldier joins war veterans

By Nikko Dizon

SIBLING: Iraq war veterans.

David's journey of triumph vs autism

By Jeannette I. Andrade
and Alison W. Lopez

WEATHER FORECAST

Second
FRONTPAGE

JPE turns up word war with JDV

Senator claims he has more exposés to make against Speaker

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **GMA** to Chinoy traders: Help me /A4

■ **ANOTHER** impeach case to be filed today /A4

By Cid C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE WORD WAR BETWEEN Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Speaker Jose de Venecia escalated further yesterday with the former calling the latter a "hypocrite" and a "pretender" for "having the gall to call for a national moral revolution when he himself had stuck his hands in several anomalous deals like the North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) and National Broadband Network (NBN) projects."

"I am furious at hypocrites, those who pretend to be someone they are not. He is a traitor, but he cannot make a fool out of me," said an irate Enrile, referring to De Venecia's call for President Macapagal-Arroyo to lead a moral revolution to rid the country of corruption.

Enrile also threatened more exposés on De Venecia's past dealings.

"Tell the Speaker not to badmouth me because I'm not like that. I know many things about him, especially since 1995, and if I am forced to several times, I don't know whom he will pick himself up from. I know his true character," Enrile said.

Enrile said De Venecia did not have the moral ground to call for a moral revolution when the latter had clearly been lobbying in behalf of private interests for state projects, citing the NorthRail and NBN projects, the latter which his son, Jose "Joey" de Venecia III, had pursued aggressively.

"He would not exploit when Enrile revealed that De Venecia had asked him during a private meeting in 2006 "not to rock the boat" when the $500-million Northrail project was being negotiated with China.

De Venecia called Enrile a "fall guy for" and urged him to act freely like a statesman by stopping all this "rally talk" of his alleged wheeling and dealing in state projects.

Yesterday, the Speaker expressed regret about asking Enrile in 2005 not to block the NorthRail project, which was to be headed by the Chinese government.

"With what he's doing now, I regret it," he told the Inquirer.

De Venecia said Enrile should now put too much meaning into their 2005 meeting, insinuating that his stake in the project was limited to its importance to rural transport.

"Just because you're endorsing a project does it mean you have an interest in it?" he asked.

But Enrile maintained that De Venecia sought the meeting at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati (not the Dusit as he earlier claimed) two years ago and that the Speaker even called a lawyer in Mindanao and a Northrail official to tell them the NorthRail contract was a done deal.

Enrile said he and the other senators had been calling about the Mindoro port and municipal ordinances of the Northrail contract the last two years but De Venecia had been successful in "killing" the issue in the media.

Enrile said he would also pin down De Venecia as the main backer of his son whose company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had lost its ro-ro ship to bag the NBN project which was awarded to ZTE Corp. of China. The contract has since been cancelled by Pres-dent Arroyo due to the controversy sparked by Joey de Venecia's expose on alleged bribes which shrouded the contract. With a report from Christine F. Esguerra

3 immigration execs under probe

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THREE OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU of Immigration are under investigation for their possible involvement in facilitating the entry and departure of four Chinese nationals using fake South Korean passports.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan has issued a memorandum directing the three officers to explain within 72 hours why administrative charges should not be filed against them.

"It was established that the arrival and departure stamps on the Korean passports seized from the Chinese passengers were subjected to fraudulent alteration," Libanan said yesterday (see statement).

He declined to identify the three officers assigned at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), pending the submission of their written explanations and the filing of administrative charges against them.

"The employees are entitled to due process. I am giving them the opportunity to explain before taking disciplinary action against them," Libanan said.

"However, I will not hesitate to suspend and dismiss them from the service if investigation shows they colluded with syndicates smuggling illegal aliens abroad using our country as a transit point," he said.

"The employees' case assumed more serious dimensions when four Chinese passengers were apprehended by elements of the Nain-B Migration Complement and Monitoring Group for attempting to leave the country with fake Korean passports.

The passengers, identified as Meng Shuting and Zhang Chen Peng, were intercepted at the departure area on Oct. 31 before they could board an Undersea Airlines flight for Dubai.

The two are now detained at the Bureau immigration jail pending deportation proceedings.

However, their two Chinese companions—Lin Yulin and He Erfeng,—who were on the same flight, reportedly eluded arrest.

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT 4-DAY Public Auction
NOVEMBER 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2007
NOVEMBER 18, 19 & 20

United Auctioneers, Inc.
NOV. 17 & 18, 2007
(SATURDAY & SUNDAY)
ALL ITEMS WILL BE PARADED ON AUCTION DAY
TWO MINIMUM PRICES!
BEST
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION STARTS ON WEDNESDAY
INSPECTION DATES: NOV. 14, 15 & 16, 2007

Cavite blast site yields sixth fatality

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—THE death toll in the explosion that leveled covered houses in a Bacoor, Cavite, subdivision has risen to six after policemen found another body under the rubble as soon on Sunday.

Senior Supt. Nidel Posadas, Cavite police director, identified the victim as Joel Deldoza, 38, said to be a member of a syndicate engaged in supplying dynamite to blast fishermen.

Deldoza's burned body was found by personnel of the Bacoor Engineering Office and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) who were clearing the area.

Posadas said the house under which Deldoza's body was found was next to the house where the blast occurred on Ambuklao Street, Camella Sonterra subdivision, on Thursday.

The house where the explosion occurred was rented by Rochilda Jiascin, one of those killed in the blast and the alleged leader of the dynamite-making syndicate.

The explosion totally destroyed at least six houses and partially damaged 30 others.

Posadas said the dozen residents who were hurt in the blast had been released from the hospital.

"We're now clearing the whole area of the debris caused by the blast. We have been securing the damaged houses and, so far, there were no indications there are other bodies still under the ruins," he said in a mobile phone interview. Blanche Romero, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Banker who loves kids and yoga seeks people who enjoy a good laugh and hassle-free banking.

995 1888

Penny Katigbak
Manager - Alabang Branch

In my office, you'll find:

Pictures of my two children. My gym bag.
And everything you need to know about banking with us. Like how there's no minimum amount to open and maintain an account. And how there's no transaction fee when you withdraw from other bank's ATMs.

So if you'd like to open an account, call me.
Or visit my branch at G/F, Nuvasal Life
Corporate Center Bldg., Filinvest Corp. City, Alabang.

You can also visit any of our Citibank Savings branches.

You'll find it doesn't take much to experience world-class banking.

Citibank Savings. Now in your neighborhood.

citibank savings

In celebration of our 22nd Anniversary, we're giving you

BUY 1 TAKE 1
on FAT-BURNING FMS
from November 12 to 17, 2007 only

From her post-pregnancy weight of 146 lbs., Dawn never imagined her weight could drop to 126 lbs. so easily! The secret? FMS!

Fat Mobilization System (FMS) eliminates fat and enhances metabolism even while at rest! A single FMS session can burn 2,000 calories in only 25 minutes. A satisfied Dawn says, "Thanks to FMS I got my figure back, and it's even better than it was before I got pregnant! It really helped me lose weight effortlessly and quicker than I thought! FMS is so amazing that I highly recommend it to anyone who wants to see results in just 3 weeks!"

Get the body you want – get it now! Call Marie France today!

Call 894-BODY (2639)

marie france

GMA to Chinoy traders: Help me with detractors

By Christine O. Avendaño

AT THE SENATE THIS WEEK resumes investigating corruption allegations against the administration, President Macapagal-Arroyo brought to mind the "notorious political noise" by turning to a group of people who may just be able to influence her political detractors.

The President on Saturday called on Chinese-Filipino businessmen to try and convince their politician friends to huddle down to work rather than engage in politicking.

At the induction of officers of the Philippine Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCCI), Ms Arroyo reiterated what she said earlier in the week—that she would be stepping down in 2010 and that she intended to empower the economy and the political climate "through the end of my term."

She said that with the help of the PCCCI, we "will see let the noise, the ugly, nasty election year issues fade."

Acknowledging "the seemingly relentless political noise and partisan intrigue going on around us," the President lauded the PCCCI members for their "deep concern" for the country's economy.

"I know you want stability, not elections and political posturing," Ms Arroyo said in her speech.

"I ask you to tell the politicians that support you to get on with the people's work ... I ask you to call on the legislators you support in the elections to stop partisan wrangling and start legislating," she said.

She said Congress had shown that it could produce legislation that helps the people "when it sees aside self-interest," and cited as an example the Senate's recent passage of the cheapest medicines bill.

The Senate resumes this week its inquiry into the allegedly anomalous National Broadband Network (NBN) project deal to which the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, and other government officials were implicated.

The Senate is also expected to open an inquiry into the handing out of cash to congressmen and governors in Malacañang last month allegedly to buy support for Ms Arroyo against impeachment.

Ms Arroyo's spokesperson, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, previously said Ms Arroyo's appeal for support from the businessmen was in aid of "ensuring political stability, continued economic growth and sustainability" geared to order to prevent our slipping into uncertainties that mark an election year."

Correction

VILLEGAS (inset) kisses his infant son who was born after he had his life-altering surgery

IN THE NOV. 11 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Cheer 'ugly' Pinoy is top food runner for 'Smile'"—misstated the surname of the Philippine Red Cross (PRC)'s spokesperson. The runner of the human bond is Jose Villegas—not Jose Cuparas. The same mistake appeared in a caption on Page A6.

More groups to file impeach case vs GMA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BAGONG ALYANSANG Makabayan and the human rights group Karapatan are set to file today a new and "more comprehensive" impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bayan spokesperson Renato Reyes said the complaint will hold Ms Arroyo accountable not only for the controversial National Broadband Network project and the alleged bribery of more than 200 government officials but also for the spate of extrajudicial killings and abductions in the country.

Unlike the complaint filed by lawyer Noel Pulido last month, Reyes said their complaint would include the issue of electoral fraud, bringing into question the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency.

"Some people may say that 20 big mother impeachment complaints were filed. But something which will involve fraud, even this time, the wall has cracks and is not as solid as it used to be," Reyes told the reporters in a text message yesterday.

Reyes and Karapatan said it will file the impeachment complaint at 8 a.m. today and will be joined by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the spouses of the Hacienda Luisita slain, Ms Mary Jane Mananzan, Makati Archbishop Oscar Cruz and other members of the Philippine Council for the Advancement of Peace and Human Rights.

The Public Interest Law Center said it will serve as counsel for the complainants, who insisted that multiple impeachment complaints must be allowed if there is no part of a single impeachment process.

The rules of the House of Representatives state that only one impeachment complaint can be entertained per year.

Bayan chair Carol Araullo said in a statement that the filing of the complaint would challenge the "existing skewed impeachment rules of Congress."

"For many, these two years now, the impeachment process has become a virtual cul-de-sac. He who is the first to complain effectively bars anyone from availing of the same process. We want this process to change," she said.

The group also said that if the House secretary general refuses to acknowledge the impeachment complaint, it will proceed to the Supreme Court.

"The House of Representatives will get a bigger headache by unjustly barring this new impeachment complaint. We won't give up the fight that easily ... They should not hesitate to unjustly and hastily dismiss this complaint. Their actions will form the basis of our going to the Supreme Court," Reyes said.

With its movie-like visual quality, everyone will want to watch TV on the Skyworth.
Experience it personally.
Visit our partners' showrooms and see why your neighbors will beat a path to your door.

The Perfect View

Skyworth LCD TV

HOME&SOUL

Do you want to troubleshoot with confidence?

PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING
December 11 – 13, 2007
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Leadership is about taking control of situations that arise. Learn about the **nature of problem-solving** and **patterns of thinking. Assess your options, make rational choices**, and **address potential threats**, with Problem-Solving and Decision-Making, you will:

- Face problems and make decisions with renewed confidence
- Reinforce your authority and credibility with proven problem-solving and decision-making techniques
- Analyze situations more comprehensively to arrive at the best solution
- Anticipate potential problems, assess risks and weigh alternatives to come up with the best decisions and solutions
- Tackle problems and make decisions more systematically and logically
- Maintain support mechanisms that will give rise to better solutions and decisions
- Communicate decisions to team members to reinforce your judgment, authority and credibility
- Consistently implement and follow through on decisions
- Overcome obstacles and resistance to "unpopular" decisions

Leaders don't wait for things to happen. They make things happen.

This program was designed for **supervisors, managers, and all other members of the management team** who wish to improve their problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Do you want to rev up your sales team?

SALES MANAGEMENT
December 11 – 13, 2007
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

A lot of us are still frustrated by below-average sales performance and declining market shares against competitors. Learn the **sales management cycle** and proper **strategic sales planning**. Organize and **structure your sales force**. Train and coach them for **maximum performance**. Develop your **leadership style** and **set standards for performance**. With Sales Management you will:

- Manage all the activities of your sales team
- Plot the direction of your team with precision
- Build the right structure and organization for your sales force
- Use training to empower salespeople with key selling skills
- Employ powerful coaching and motivational techniques to guide salespeople towards peak performance
- Delegate and motivate for maximum results
- Discipline people and help them keep their focus
- Sculpt a decisive, flexible, and effective leadership style

Because sales is the heart of business,

this program is for **sales managers, marketing managers, territory managers, area managers, district managers, account sales managers** and anyone who handles sales people and wants to increase their sales performance.

Is your training an investment or an expense?

TRAINING THE TRAINERS
December 11 - 13, 2007
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

Training is an investment in your people, so don't waste your employees' time and your organization's money with ineffective programs and seminars. They must be **designed properly** to **address a set of specific needs**, employing the **right methodology** for **maximum learning** and **audience impact**. They have to be **in line with organizational goals** and then **evaluated properly** to determine success. With Training the Trainers you will be able to:

- Align all training with the organization's goals
- Assess your readiness to become a trainer
- Understand the dynamics and chemistry of training
- Appreciate the entire training management cycle
- Assess your people's training needs more effectively
- Design more dynamic programs
- Employ the best methodologies for each training session
- Understand the importance of "training the trainers" preparation
- Train like a pro
- Evaluate programs and make sure their effects last

Make the most out of your investment.

This program is for **trainers, training officers, human resource and personnel officers and managers** who want to assess their readiness to become trained, utilize the best methods, and design and evaluate dynamic programs.

27 Years Guthrie Jensen
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

Call us if you want to customize a program for 10 or more people.

For inquiries and reservations call:
Ais, Caroline, Diane, Li, or Tessa at
892-7559, 894-0445, or 892-7041 or visit
www.guthrie-jensen.com
7/F Cirea Tower Bldg., Cortes Palanca Jr. St.
Legaspi Vill., Makati City

Metrobank Mabuhay Miles
A PAL Roundtrip Ticket or a Mango Bracelet Watch?
Whatever you fancy is yours FREE.
MANGO
Get a Mabuhay Miles Visa and take off with a free domestic roundtrip ticket via Philippine Airlines.
Or get the perfect fashion accessory for your new RED MasterCard – a free Mango bracelet watch.
No guesswork. No raffles. Just pick your fancy and apply now!
Call 1-(02) 95-800
Click www.hsbc.com.ph
Visit your nearest HSBC branch
HSBC
The world's local bank

SLIMMERS WORLD
BIKINI BODIES 2007
Lost 20 lbs.
BUY 1 MONTH, GET 1 MONTH FREE!
NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP
PLUS! PERSONAL TRAINING & ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS.
INTRODUCING... Ultralift
LOOK 5 YEARS YOUNGER IN JUST 30 MINUTES
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!!!
ADVANCED LASER TREATMENT
Best Price in the Philippines
CALL OUR ONE-STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.
FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091-SLIMMERS (754-6377)
SMOOTH THOSE LUMPS & BUMPS WITH BIOMETRICS!!!
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

Asean expo to focus not only on trade but culture

THE INTERNATIONAL ARTS and Crafts Expo of the Asean Handicraft Promotion and Development Association (Ahpa) Inc. will feature daily shows highlighting the cultures of some of the participating countries.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Hilario, chair of the expo national organizing committee, said yesterday the cultural shows will be one of the three major components of the expo.

The other components, he said in a press statement, are the country and regional pavilions featuring arts and crafts unique to each country and exclusive of their heritage, and the international selling area.

The countries that will exhibit at the expo are the seven member nations, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei, Laos, Cambodia, and Burma (Myanmar), as well as Japan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the United States.

The expo will be held on Nov. 22-25 at the SMX Convention Center by the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Bolante said the countries that will stage cultural presentations are the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the US.

Ineme-credited the National Commission on Culture and the Arts under Executive Director Ozelle Cadette Alvarez with putting together the performances by Philippine culture groups.

The performers include the Samon Gluman Folklore group, Imala Kawayan, Angan Ugnayan, Kaebaenen Da-

scribe, Ensemble, Philippine Story Band, Philippine Ballet Theatre, Quezon City Ballet, Ramon Magsaysay youth choir and Quezon City Orchestra.

Tourism said a forum on business opportunities (Bo Ops 2008) will coincide with the expo.

Unesco will display products made by recipients of the Unesco Ahpada seal of excellence in a special setting.

The expo organizing committee includes Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Ahpada president and former Tourism Secretary Mina T. Gabor.

Only 42 days and before Christmas. Beat the holiday rush now!

smartbook1225

GET YOURS NOW!

N°1

BLUE OZ WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL: 634-1207/ 634-8542

Rizal shabu lab busted

AGENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency and Rizal provincial police busted Friday a suspected shabu laboratory in the province.

Derlinch Carreon, PDEA spokesperson, said teams from the two agencies served a search warrant on a house on Canna Street, Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal at around 11:35 a.m.

Recovered in the raid were several crates containing shabu ingredients and laboratory equipment.

Rico Gaanan and John Ang, subjects of the search warrant, were not at the house at the time of the raid.

Carreon said the ingredients could have produced millions of pesos worth of high-grade shabu. /Alexis Pupo

Maria C. Santos; 93

MARIA CONCEPCION SANTOS of Lingayen, Pangasinan, and Malabon and Marikina died on Nov. 8 at the age of 93.

She is survived by her children Josefina Santolmo, Alberto, Rosemarie de la Paz, Violeta, Caridad Ignacio, Edmundo, Fe Avila, CM, Elena Aparicio, Raul, Freddie and Lulu Jose.

Her body lies at Funeraria Paz, Avenida Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Nov. 13 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 9 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

Walang patid ang saya!

Tuloy-tuloy ang pag-sing and dance ala concert star the WOW! Wireless Duet!

Two wireless microphones na may better quality sound.

NEW! CONCERTO EDITION

the No.1

NEW FEATURES:

Plus! Built-in 2,004 songs & 100% WOW Philippine Scenic background

Healthy Home & Healthy Lifestyle with MAXI CARDIO

To Keep your heart healthy you have to keep on track

Buy one box of MAXI CARDIO and get one PEDOMETER FREE

mercury drug

Sick of LEAKS?

Dr. SEAL

Dr. SEAL is an acrylic, permanent waterproofing membrane that:

Protects old and new concrete

Prevents corrosion of metal

astroVision Automatic ABENSON WESTERN Kultura Avant GIBHF GUANZON Magic NCCC Dept. Store

Pinoy writer a finalist in literary tilt won by Sino

HONG KONG—THE PHILIPPINES' JOSE Dalisay Jr. was one of five shortlisted authors for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize that on Saturday was won by Chinese author Jiang Rong for his best-selling novel "The Wolf Totem."

The $30,000 (P126,000) literary award was newly established to bring new Asian literature in English to the attention of the world literary community.

Dalisay, who writes in both English and Filipino, has published 15 books of stories, plays and essays, with five receiving the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle. Dalisay teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines and has lectured on Philippine culture and politics at universities in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia. He writes a regular column for the Philippine Star.

According to the judges, Dalisay's story "Soledad's Sister," was "full of narrative surprise, artfully put together and subtly observed. It offers an unillusioned, compassionate portrayal of contemporary society from a Philippines perspective, and is utterly compelling. The characters engage us in the epic, yet very local nature of their quest for dignity and justice. A work of warmth, humanity and confidence."

Jiang's "Wolf Totem," first published in Chinese, is about the struggle of life during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution and draws on Jiang's personal experience in the Mongolian grasslands.

The English edition of the book is scheduled for publication in March next year.

Jiang, born in Jiangsu in 1946, spent 11 years living with nomadic communities in the Chinese border grassland region.

The Beijing-based writer was not able to receive the award in person at the ceremony held in Hong Kong Saturday night because of ill-health. But in a statement, Jiang said he was thrilled and honored that his Chinese story caught the attention of the judges.

"I spent 10 years thinking, and six years writing, 'Wolf Totem.' During that process, I hoped to write a story that would appeal to the Chinese sensibility," Jiang said.

Adrienne Clarkson, who led the panel of three judges, hailed "Wolf Totem" as a "panoramic novel" of life in the Mongolian grasslands during the Cultural Revolution period.

"The slowly developing narrative is considered in total detail and has a powerful cumulative effect," the former governor general of Canada said in a statement.

The Dawa editor receives shortlisted for the prize included Indian writer Kunal Gadekar for "Dandelion & Home," Burmese (Myanmar) Nu Nu Yi Arwa for "Smile As They Bow" and Hong Kong's Xu Xi for "Habit of a Foreign Sky."

The annual prize is sponsored by the London-based financial services company Man Group.

Man Group Plc is known for sponsoring the prestigious Booker Prize, which rewards the best novel of the year by a writer from Britain, Ireland or a Commonwealth country. The Booker, founded in 1969, has gone in the past to writers such as Salman Rushdie and J.M. Coetzee.

AP-Reuters

Musical by deaf students

TO CELEBRATE this year's commencement of special education in the Philippines—which started with the establishment of the Instituto Pedagogico for the Deaf and the Blind—LEAD Limited for the Deaf will present "Deafinitely Please: A Musical Feast" featuring an all-deaf cast.

The show, which will be presented in cooperation with Bough Baker Jones, Blues Brothers and the Metro Manila Federation of Agencies for the Deaf, will be on Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Meia Theater Center, Esteban Drive, New Manila, Quezon City.

Tickets at P1,00 and P1,650 may be reserved by calling LEAD Center for the Deaf at tel. 426-0382 or 426-5721.

CA backs GSIS claim of teacher with brain disorder

By Leila B. Salaverria

AN OVERWORKED PUBLIC school teacher who canceled long absences every day for three decades in search for vacation is entitled to receive compensation for a rare brain disorder she contracted while working, according to the Court of Appeals.

The appellate court directed the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to pay 59-year-old Germania Salvaleon disability compensation benefits for as a result of contracting Parkinson's Disease, an ailment that affects motor functions and whose exact cause has not yet been determined.

Salvaleon, a public school elementary school teacher who gave the best 33 years of her life in the government service and who in the process, contracted Parkinson's Disease, is entitled to compensatory benefits corresponding to her claim," it said in its Oct. 9 decision.

Salvaleon, a teacher at the Dr. Alfaro Elementary School in Manila for 14 years, left her job in 2004.

She started showing symptoms of Parkinson's Disease in 2002—rest tremors, slight rigidity, mask-like face—which became more pronounced in the next two years.

After her diagnosis, she filed a claim for disability compensation benefits with the GSIS, which the latter denied because it claimed that Parkinson's Disease was not an occupational disease.

Decision overturned

The GSIS decision was upheld by the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC), prompting Salvaleon to elevate the issue to the appellate court.

In its ruling in favor of Salvaleon, the court said that while Parkinson's was not an occupational disease, the teacher was still entitled to compensation since the cause of the illness was not clinically known and she continued it while she was working.

It pointed out that Salvaleon had been teaching elementary students for 33 years. All this time, she traveled every work day from Bilian in Laguna to Sampaloc in Manila just to teach.

The appellate court added that her job "exposed her to air pollutants, gases, fumes, vapor and dust; rapid variations in temperature, high humidity and bad weather; physical, mental, psychological and emotional stress or pressure, including overwork and fatigue."

All these, it said, could have triggered Parkinson's Disease.

AMERICAN officers salute during yesterday's Veterans' Day ceremonies held at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

ROTORCOMP
SWAN
BLOWERS AND VACUUM BOOSTERS
LONGTECH
KAWASAKI
Victor Hardware

At 24, Fil-Am soldier joins war veterans

From page A1

the US Army, which he had served for three years.

Because of his severe injuries, he is now "medically retired" from military service. Silong has been in the Philippines for five months now and plans to spend Christmas with his mother, which he has not seen for quite some time.

He is mulling things over, trying to decide whether he should study nursing, go back to the United States, or just "have fun."

"I'm taking it one second left," Silong told the Inquirer yesterday.

Veterans' Day

Silong and other war veterans much older than him were honored at the annual Veterans' Day ceremonies held yesterday at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Representing the veterans who fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Silong stood proud and snappy in his figure and bearing.

He took his righthit place beside the oldest veterans who fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

The ceremonies, led by US Ambassador to Manila Kristie Kenney and Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, paid tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of these men and women.

'Living reminders'

In his brief speech, Romulo said the veterans were "living reminders" of the long journey toward freedom the world now enjoys.

At yesterday's tribute, the old soldiers basked in the glorious memories of their heroism as heroes, government officials, Filipinos and American soldiers, and their families shook their hands and had pictures taken with them.

An 89-year-old veteran, Frederick Wilson Jr., was in a wheelchair, aided by his relatives. He could no longer remember which war he had fought but he smiled and waved at those who greeted him.

"It is our duty to honor these veterans by ensuring that we will never again go to war. Our responsibility is to ensure that the pain of war will remain forever silent. And we can only learn and live from lessons of war when we remember," Romulo said.

New battle

He stressed that there was a "new battle to win the hearts and minds of people against the threats of terrorism, extremism and poverty."

For his part, Silong said he had seen "the best and the worst ... of being in the military ... of the fight against terrorism."

He also said he would never forget the kinship he experienced in the US Army.

"They accepted me and treated me like a brother," said Silong, who was 18 when he migrated to the United States in 2000 with his father and three brothers.

RENOVATION SALE!!!
ESCAPE
RELAXER
GOOD FOR 1 PERSON
GOOD FOR 2 PERSONS
GOOD FOR 1 PERSON
Spa Pool Models
Bring New Life into your Home!
BIG BIG SAVINGS!!!
PETITE
GOOD FOR 2 PERSONS
ARKMIL, INC.
1001 EDSA, Project 7, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 374-3701 to 08 • Fax No.: 374-3693

Chubby may be the new healthy ...

From page A1

of Mom's Health. They're thin. Their eyes are bright. They look like they're bursting with energy.

They may be. But they might be better off if they had listened to their grandmother and put a little meat on those bones.

Chubby may be the new healthy. What matters if it will be the new beautiful?

Two years ago, researchers found that overweight people had the lowest mortality rate of any weight group. Researchers later linked excess of death to specific weights.

Obese people had more deaths from heart disease; researchers suspected but took. This people had more deaths from everything but cancer and heart disease.

But there were 200,000 fewer deaths among the overweight than would have been expected if these people had been of normal weight.

This is what might politely be called the chubby category with body mass indexes (a measure of weight for height) of 25 to 30. A woman, for instance, who is 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs between 146 and 175 pounds.

All about class, control

Some social scientists say that being thin really isn't about health, but about social class and control.

When food was scarce and expensive, only the rich could afford to be fat. In the 19th century, well-to-do men with pasunken joined the Mod's Clubs, which gave rise to the term "fat cat."

Every version of that era were other diseases. Lillian Russell weighed 200 pounds.

These notions of fashion gradually gave way to a more streamlined physique.

The body mass indexes of War insurance actuaries, according to a 2000 study, have been decreasing since 1922. In recent years, as many as two-thirds of women and more than half of men have expressed dissatisfaction with their weight.

Henry VIII Oprah effect

How did we get to this point?

George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University, calls it the King Henry VIII Oprah Winfrey effect.

Henry VIII, king of England in the 16th century, "was huge," which was a symbol of his wealth, Armelagos said. So Henry VIII to get that way, "I took 100 people collecting food for him and cooking it."

Compare that with billionaire Oprah Winfrey. "She has to have a dietitian and cook and a trainer to take [her] out to be like that," Armelagos said.

Today poorer people are more likely to be fat. And so, "fatness is associated with downward mobility," according to Abigail Saguy, a sociologist at UCLA.

We don't fear becomes a moral issue, manifested in health insurance, according to Saguy. New York Times News Service

image RUNNER
The secret of my success
Canon
iR1022
Digital Laser Copier
High Speed
Impressive
Versatile
Now only P 39,995.00
884-9032
FREE PIXMA iP1300

LANDMARK
TRINOMA

SHOP & DRIVE

AND
GET A CHANCE TO
WIN
ANY OF
5
MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Color may vary from the actual units

LANDMARK
TRINOMA

Every **P600.00** purchase entitles a customer to a raffle coupon. Proceed to Customer Service sections of either the Department Store or Supermart for receipt validation and redemption of raffle coupons. Promo period: **November 12, 2007** to **February 17, 2008**. Deadline for dropping of coupons is on **February 17, 2008, 9:00 pm**. Grand Draw is on **February 18, 2008 at 5:00pm**. See posters for complete details.

QC food company ordered to pay P1-M fine for polluting drains

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APpeals has ordered a Quezon City food processing company to pay more than P1 million in fines for discharging pollutants into the public drainage system for over three years.

The court ruled that the premises of Jo-Ani International Philippines Inc., maker and exporter of bottled fruit preserves and banana chips, to have the P1.3-million fine imposed on it by the Laguna Lake Development Authority in 2005 ordered because it was not operating during some of the agency's inspections.

However, the appellate court found that the chaos was not true. The court gave weight to the observation of the Office of the Solicitor General that the LLDA inspected Jo-Ani's premises on Aug. 8, 1996, and took wastewater samples on Dec. 14, 1998, although the company said it was not operating between July 31 to Aug. 8, 1996, and from Dec. 8, 1998 to February 1999.

The LDA also said the plant was operating on Nov. 13, 1998 when the LLDA inspected it allegedly exceeded the standard for total iron (Fe) and total suspended solids (TSS).

But the court said the plant was not operating on Nov. 13, 1998 when the LLDA inspected it and found its operation highly irregular with the exports submitted by LLDA from material discharges. Evidence, the court said in its Oct. 26 decision.

It said findings of administrative agencies were usually accorded respect if there were evidence of abuse or biased bias.

The LLDA inspected Jo-Ani's plant in August 1997 and found its wastewater did not comply with effluent standards based on acidic total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and oil and grease.

The LLDA ordered the company to suspend its operations should not be stopped, and directed it to pay a fine of P1,000 per day until it improved its effluent quality.

In February 1998, Jo-Ani's was given time to put in place corrective measures. The company said its food manufacturing and warehouse facility to be completed in 1999.

Not yet finished

But the LLDA monitoring team in August 1998 found the company continued its operations even though the measures by treatment plant was not yet finished, discharging its wastewater into the municipal drains.

It was only in December 2000 that the operation allowed Jo-Ani's wastewater was discharged to municipals.

But barely two years later, in May 2002, Jo-Ani's was again found to have violated effluent standards.

The LLDA directed the company to pay the daily penalty from Aug. 26, 1997 to Dec. 11, 2000, and from May 9 to Oct. 1, 2002, totalling P1.2.0 million.

Fr. Ed, Inquirer columnists at ASAP

WINTER in CHINA

PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

MuLAN TRAVEL SERVICE CORP.
NOW OPEN GREENHILLS BRANCH
2007 LUXURY TOURS
BEIJING TOUR
SHANGHAI TOUR
TIBET-KAILASH TOUR
BEIJING-SHANGHAI TOUR
CUSTOMIZED PACKAGES
CORPORATE AND INCENTIVE TOURS

RAKSO Travel
Your No. 1 Travel Society!
www.RaksoTravel.com
KOREA WINTER SKI
Jeju Island
SEOUL
JAPAN
ASIA
SAIGON
TAIPEI
BEIJING
TOKYO
SINGAPORE
BANGKOK
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND
NEW YORK
LAS VEGAS
HONOLULU
FARES
Call us at 02 812-9667
TRAVEL AT YOUR OWN STYLE

Good Location. Good View
BAGUIO
VACATION APTS
Brand New

2%CAR/TRUCK LOAN

SOAP MAKING SEMINAR AND MARKETING

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Philippine Hotel Reservations Service
HOTEL DISCOUNTS WORLDWIDE!
Call 812-PHRS

Sentinel
373-97-97

idec
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall Mounted Aircon
1hp-P16,500
Free Installation!

PANASONIC
P14,500
SPECIAL PROMO!!!
FREE DEMO

CITYLAND
We commit, we deliver.
GRAND EMERALD TOWER
P 1.03M cash
P 9,812 monthly

VIPER AUTOCARE
Free Installation!

PROVEN HAIR GROWER

JACOB INT'L EQUIPMENT CO.

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment
P3,700
P39,500

COPIER
Hot! Hot! Hot Deals!
COPYTRADE

FLY NOW PAY LATER!

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR HOUSE!
ANTI BUKBOK
WOOD PRESERVATIVES

INQUIRER
Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

CHRISTMAS PROMO!
ONLY P18,000 DOWNPAYMENT
LEASE TO OWN PABX
FREE DEMO

Committed to Quality of Life
Xcred GIFT PACK

Uniwell

FREE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
HANDS-ON SEMINAR
FREE: Serving of Coffee, Tea or Juice

METRO
Citizen's Call

INCA
STORAGE TANK SALE!!
FACTORY DIRECT
10 YEARS WARRANTED!

Ang galing ng Pinoy ay nasa bagong

Biolink VCO Lotion and Bath Soap

Now, the power of nature's healthiest oil, Virgin Coconut Oil, is found in Biolink VCO Lotion & Bath Soap!
Even made stronger with the fusion of 7 other skin moisturizers to form the revolutionary VCO7 Hydrolock Technology,
it deeply penetrates the inner layers of the skin and moisturizes it from within, giving you immense moisture.

Galing ng Pinoy!

Mula sa **SPLASH**

Another quality **innovation** from a truly world-class Filipino-owned company.

Canada gives Pacificador another chance

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A principal accused in the murder of former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier has avoided deportation to Canada yet again after a Canadian court ordered a third hearing on his bid for refugee status.

The Federal Court of Canada (FCC) set aside the decision of the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) rejecting for the second time the application of Rodolfo "Teng" Pacificador.

The 20-page order dated Oct. 15 is posted on the FCC website (http://decisions.fct-cf.gc.ca/en/2007/2007fc1056/2007fc1056.html).

The decision penned by Justice Yves de Montigny ordered another refugee hearing by a different IRB panel on the grounds that the IRB had failed to consider that Pacificador could face "lengthy and arbitrary detention" and that there was "a serious possibility or reasonable chance he will be tortured or mistreated" in the Philippines.

Principal accused

Pacificador, 51, is among the principal accused in Javier's murder who have remained at large.

Javier, then 43, was gunned down in broad daylight on Feb. 11, 1986, by heavily armed men in a public plaza during the campaigning of rivals for the snap presidential elections. Four bystanders were wounded.

Javier was then a leader of the opposition against the Marcos dictatorship.

Pacificador, along with his father, former lieutenant governor Antonio Pacificador, is a staunch Marcos ally.

Witnesses testified that Rodolfo Pacificador had met with Ishmael Ivan, alias Boy Muslim, the alleged leader of the gunmen who shot Javier, before and after Javier was killed.

Pacificador allegedly gave Ivan and his henchmen money, food and shelter.

On Oct. 12, 2004, the Antique Regional Trial Court acquitted Arturo Pacificador and three other accused. The court, however, found Arturo's lawyer, Avelino Javellana, and seven others, mostly bodyguards of the former lawmakers, guilty of Javier's murder.

Mastermind

In the decision rendered by Judge Rudy Catrinjan, the court said Rodolfo Pacificador played a key role in the planning and commission of Javier's murder.

Catrinjan said the testimony of prosecution witness Ishmael Ivan that Rodolfo "was the mastermind [of Javier's killing]." Catrinjan had said in an interview with the Inquirer.

Rodolfo fled to Canada shortly after the killing, going via Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States before arriving in Canada on Sept. 20, 1987. He claimed refugee status at the port of entry at Niagara falls.

He was detained in Canada for seven years until he was freed on bail in 1994.

On Oct. 19, 1998, the Canadian Justice Ministry ordered his extradition to the Philippines but the order was reversed by the Ontario Court of Appeals on Aug. 1, 2002, on the grounds that the Philippines could not guarantee him a fair and speedy trial.

No-refugee status

The Canadian Supreme Court affirmed the rejection of the petition in February 2003.

The IRB twice rejected Pacificador's application for refugee status because it said Pacificador was indicted a refugee was a person in need of protection, according to the FCC order.

It viewed Pacificador's arguments that he would not get a fair trial in the Philippines and would face political persecution and could be "manipulated" unfounded."

The board pointed out his father was acquitted of the charges and his trial "was conducted in accordance with the rules of natural justice."

It also said that none of the accused in Javier's murder had been extradited, duly executed and there had never been an attempt on the life of the Pacificador's life.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 12, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Pamphar

1st Reading: Wisdom 1:1-7
Gospel: Luke 17:1-6

Jesus said to his disciples, "Scandals will unfortunately come and cause people to fall; but woe to the one who has brought it about. It would be better for that one to be thrown into the sea with a millstone around the neck. Truly this would be better for that person than to cause one of these little ones to fall.

"Be careful. If your brother offends you, reprimand him and if he is sorry, forgive him. And if he offends you seven times in a day but seven times comes back to you saying, 'I am sorry,' forgive him."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." And the Lord said, "If you have faith even the size of a mustard seed, you may say to this sycamine tree, 'Be uprooted and plant yourself in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Commentary:

This is a hard saying. Jesus is not only telling us that we should not cause others to stumble, but also that we should not be stumbling blocks to ourselves. We must make sure that we are forgiving, that we are at peace with ourselves, and that we are not the reason why others sin. If only our faith were as strong as a mustard seed, we could change the situations in the world that are unjust, that make us hesitate to forgive, and cause us many of the injustices and selfishness we see around us. Let us pray for faith—a faith that is true and that enables us to have trust in God.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 23 No. 317

OPINION

Replacing Abalos

EDITORIAL

THE IDEA SEEMED GOOD ON PAPER. CREATE AN independent search committee to propose the most qualified candidates for chairman of the Commission on Elections. Theory, however, is no match (as we like to say in the Philippines) for practice—because politics as it is practiced in the Philippines in the post-Estrada impeachment era is mentioned not by theory but by self-interest alone. We are afraid that the screening committee may be compromised by the very politics of survival it is supposed to counter.

After President Maria Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo formed the committee last week, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye explained its function in action-oriented terms. It "shall screen potential candidates with the end view of submitting to the Office of the President for its consideration a short list of qualified candidates," Bunye said.

But the inclusion of long-time National Movement for Free Elections leader Jose Concepcion, trade unionist Democrito Mendoza and Palace official Bernardito Abes in the committee prompted a new group, the Center for Anti-Graft and Corruption Prevention, to sound the alarm. "We have a deep fear that they [the three members mentioned] could not freely withstand any secret and crucial instructions to protect the desires and interests of the appointing authority," the group's secretary general told the media.

Even if these members of the committee, or the others the President named to it, all acted honorably and independently, however, they will still labor under a limited mandate. Their recommendations will not be mailed according to their order of preference, and would not bind the President. In other words, and unlike the selection of Supreme Court appointees from a short list voted upon by the Judicial and Bar Council, the President is free to disregard the recommendations.

What does that, potentially, make of the committee? A fig leaf, to cover naked ambition.

The stark record of the Arroyo administration does not exactly inspire confidence. One reason why the appointment of the newest election commissioner, Melchor Magnankiam, generated so much controversy is because it came in the heels of the disclosure, by incumbent Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, of a Palace short list of candidates, which included the President's election lawyer, Romulo Mahakilesak, and opposition-turn Bicol Saysaysing Joel Rufus Rodriguez.

Magnankiam, however, was not on that list. Coincidence? The Palace is not averse to using the contaminations of a controversial agency to float a political trial balloon, or to signal a Palace ticket.

The formation of a screening committee, therefore, is as welcome as another shameless twist, another cynical turn, in the administration's ceaseless political maneuvering.

But, Mrs. President, do you really need a screening committee of eminent citizens to tell you what you must and must not do?

The lessons of history already point us in the right direction.

First, and above all else, do not appoint a politician. The scariest periods in Comelec history occurred during the search of two plain, thoroughly political animals. Ferdinand Marcos had his Leonardo Perez, a former senator and (after resignation from the Commission) a political adviser; you had the ever-more-pliable lawyer-who-rose-from-poverty, former mayor and party leader Benjamin Abalos. The Comelec was rehabilitated after the political plunder of the Marcos years with the help of non-political, certainly non-partisan chairmen: Hamon Felipe Jr., Hilario Davide, Christian Monsod, Bernardo Pardo, Haydee Demetrio-no, Alfredo Benipayo. What does this list tell us? Since the first flourish of People Power, it was only you, Mrs. President, who appointed a professional politician as chairman.

Second, do not appoint a lawyer without a backbone, someone who cannot say no. Abalos' own less than creditable version of events related to the ZTE scandal already proves our thing. His counsel runs anybody down. Every request for an introduction, for a meeting, for use of certain facilities, he in time learned to accommodate. We need a chairman who can say no.

Third, do not appoint someone who has your number.

Publisher Isaac Belmonte
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Mejia
Associate Editor Armando S. Invencio
Associate Editor for Radio-Digital Rosario E. Garcellano
Opinion Editor Ignacio V. Bunye
Executive Editor Artemio T. Engracia Jr. • Deputy Managing Editor Hazel Pumaren
Chief News Desk Chief Ruben D. Almendras
Regional Editor Francisco R. Rodriguez Jr.
Research Chief Editor Jean F. Montesclaros
Editor in Consultant Amando Doronila
Chief Photographer Rene H. Sahagun
Art & Design Director Lyndi A. Villaluz
Board Chairman Marixi R. Prieto
President Roberto Pagdanganan
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Edward S. Rivera
Vice Chairman Fort B. Garcia
Officer-in-charge Dante Sean B. Tiu
Readers' Advocate Lilian Kalaw-Tirol

Court stops tax abuse by Bataan gov't

I ADMIRED AND SUPPORTED JOE ENRIQUEZ "Tex" Garcia of Bataan when he was still a congressman. Almost single-handedly, he fought the Condominium Of Infinity Overpainting law as it was passed because instead of breaking up the oligopoly of oil companies, it only expanded it.

The last extinction was in deregulation the local oil refining industry to encourage other oil companies to enter the fray and compete with the three entrenched oil giants—Petron, Shell and Caltex. Competition does prices down. Other countries that also deregulated their oil industries have open-ended transition periods during which price control is maintained, to give the new players time to compete with the giants. Our law gives itself a transition period of six months, but President Abel Ramos inclined it to two months, thus making the law a farce. How once investors re-set up shop and compete with established oil companies in just one month?

What Tex had warned about is happening now. Fuel prices are rising fast, not only because of the price rises in the international market, but also because the oil deregulation law is a failure. The small upstarts were stymied in competing with the Big Three, joined the oligopoly. Many of them just buy their refined products from the Big Three and sell them to their customers with a markup. Sometimes they even beat the Big Three in raising prices. Then Congressman Garcia filed a bill to repeal the oil deregulation law and somebody should take up the fight (he was recently elected as congressman but is not doing anything to follow through with what his father started).

Now that he is governor of Bataan, however, he is still fighting the oil companies but has changed tactics. Instead of using stones, he is now using strong-arm methods, even blackmail, to squeeze them. I don't agree with him this time.

What has he done? He doubled the real property tax assessment on Petron. The oil firm, half-owned by the Philippine government, has paid Bataan P1.675 billion in taxes since 1999 but he wants another P1.7 billion in alleged unpaid taxes from 1999 to the first half of 2007. When Petron contested the assessment, Tex threatened scheduled last Oct. 17 the sale at public auction of assets of the oil firm. Amid the simmering issue" under the law, a taxpayer can contest a real property tax assessment at the Local Board of Assessment Appeals (LBAA).

Petron went to court and got a temporary restraining order and later a preliminary injunction. The court said Petron was denied the opportunity to appeal the assessment to the LBAA. The court also ruled that Petron has substantial a case. Petron could therefore appeal to the Central Board of Assessment Appeals (CBAA) in lieu of a such dispute. The CBAA has also ordered the LBAA to proceed with the resolution of Petron's appeal on the revised assessments.

Records show that Petron had been only grossly paying its real property taxes, even admitting payments to the province of Bataan. Petron is the leading oil refining and marketing company in the Philippines. Its 180,000 barrel-a-day refinery supplies nearly 40 percent of the country's fuel requirements.

* * *

A very cruel and sadistic pastime, dogfighting, is increasing in the Philippines despite the prohibition by the National Welfare Act (ANA). In these fights, dogs, often pit bulls, are made to fight in an enclosure, sometimes to the death, while humans watch and put wagers on them. If the dogs are not killed outright, they suffer so much injury that they either become incapacitated permanently or later die of infection. It's a very dangerous exercise, especially with children around, as pit bulls are bred to attack. They appear docile at times, but you can never tell when their instinct to attack will suddenly prompt them to attack humans, even their owners.

Local government units, especially barangays, should prevent dogfights in their jurisdictions but they don't and this exposes them to charges of dereliction of duty. It is only the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) that is trying to have the AWA law enforced. LAWA also prohibits horse-fighting, but this is still being done during town fiestas in the South without the police, because of the country and local government officials doing anything about it.

Last March 31, PAWS and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) raided a dogfighting arena in exhibition, Antipolo City. Fourteen participants, including the owner of the arena, were arrested, seven dogs were confiscated and taken to the PAWS Animal Rescue Center to be treated for their injuries and rehabilitated. The Thais shipped out of the country during the 1998 World Dog Show. PAWS is pushing for the issuance of arrest warrants for the Thais and the other participants to the dogfight as only the alleged operator of the arena (one Benny Tan) as well as a handful of others have warrants of arrest.

Seven police noncommissioned officers caught red-handed, the defendants' lacks is to delay the case. At the arraignment last Friday, the defense lawyer objected to the participation of a PAWS lawyer even though existing jurisprudence allows private lawyers, while under the direction of the prosecutor, to participate in trials. The judge should be wary of dilatory tactics, as this is the first dogfighting case to be prosecuted and will set the example for future cases.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

New life

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

YOU CAN'T BE A FISHERMAN BEING AND NOT BE devastated by what Marianne Amper has done. The flood of text messages and e-mail that came my way last Thursday from friends and strangers for no other reason than just to be able to tell someone they cried when they read about her life, or death, testifies to it.

One friend, who has a 7-year-old of her own, put it so well so simply. By eight, Marianne's world should only have been about school and play. By eight, it should have been half of love and laughter. That her world should instead only be about care and woe, indeed that it should have no light or hope, it's just...not right.

Another said he could not imagine someone who deserved to live more. This was a girl who accompanied school bus-loving children to the point of deep trials on the aspect of being gone for a month. And she had to miss school again and again for many reasons, not least because she had no money for fare, for bag, for school work. That was quite apart from the fact that she had to help her mother wash clothes for other people in order to send the latter, an office that often ignored battle. Given the kids today who have to be forced to go to school and who find ways to stay out of it anyway, my text writer said, there's just no justice in this world.

I share their sentiments completely. What one shares in the story of Marianne Almonte's heartrending act of self-destruction was that she was clearly an intelligent and sensitive 11-year-old. One who never had a chance to have a childhood, being shoved to adulthood almost as soon as she came into this world. That is seen in her wish list, written in secret in her diary, which included a bicycle, a school bag and jobs for her parents. How many 11-year-olds given an opportunity to ask for anything in the world would think of a school bag and jobs for her parents? Only the bicycle is there to remind us—or drive home the point—that it is not, in fact, that Marianne was still a child, an achingly tender and innocent mind set adrift in a world that should have been full of light and wonder but was in fact [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Jpepa reservations

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN AN INCREASINGLY GLOBALIZED WORLD, no nation must lose economic sovereignty with other nations. But this is precisely the danger involved in the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other agreements being proposed that envision free interchange with Japan through a Japan Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa).

The importance of that danger necessarily invites economic give and take. Through economic analysis you get countervailing opinions of those sovereign interests that might sometimes be compromised in the economic deals envisioned in conventions.

Reservations are important because they constitute the limitations on the commitments made. Without reservations the commitments are read as unlimited. When a state has failed to include reservations in a treaty the desired reservations, it may not appeal to reservations made in its own constitution or laws when the treaty is invoked against it. No matter how broad the commitments made in a treaty international law says, "Every State has the duty to carry out in good faith its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and it may not invoke provisions in its constitution or its laws as an excuse for failure to perform this duty."

That is an important point to keep in mind because under the necessary reservations we envision hundred one policy matters. Why so? Because a treaty has a dual character. It is both domestic law and international law. In domestic law the Jpepa would become law. It would affect many laws in many, can prevail over many constitutional. That is not so in international litigation because "Every State has the duty to carry out in good faith its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and it may not invoke provisions in its constitution or its laws as an excuse for failure to perform this duty."

Thus it is an important point to keep in mind because under the necessary reservations we envision hundred one policy matters. Why so? Because a treaty has a dual character. It is both domestic law and international law. In domestic law the Jpepa would become law. It would affect many laws in many, can prevail over many constitutional. That is not so in international litigation because "Every State has the duty to carry out in good faith its obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, and it may not invoke provisions in its constitution or its laws as an excuse for failure to perform this duty."

Let us now look at some of the reservations made in the

UTI?
(Urinary Tract Infection)

Hindi makakapit ang bacteria.
Iwas UTI. Iwas hapdi at sakit.

CranUTI™
NATURE'S RELIEF

AVAILABLE AT mercury drug and other reputable drugstores
DISTRIBUTED BY

Pollution of the spirit

LETTERS

IN THE BOOK TITLED "PEACE, WAR, AND ADDICTS," historian-turned-novelist Jack Anderson, writes us into the fascinating world of journalism, starting as a 13-year-old reporter in 1934 for a small rural newspaper, the Riverton Eagle in Utah.

He describes the highlights and anecdotes of his profession—from attempts at censorship; from professional dissidents to death threats; from inside information or tip of enemies, among many others.

In 1985, he had the privilege to interview the playwright-turned-president, Vaclav Havel. Anderson quotes President Havel: "Rules limit, sh, tolerate unbearable sin or sinful behavior worst, our country have a worse pollution—a pollution of the spirit. Our people are drinking wrong with lying to the government that lied to them, our people are nothing wrong with elevating the government that elevated them; our people are nothing wrong with running from the government that ran from them."

Franklin Ebook was referring to Czechoslovakia 10 years ago after the fall of Communism in his beloved country.

Sounds familiar? His awareness certainly could have been directly applied in foreign, currently, suitably and more appropriately to the Filipino people.

Will and and done. After all, we deserve the kind of government we have.

—JAKOVI CABAÑAS CENIZAS,
manongcenizas@yahoo.com

Side of Philcomsat's Bildner on CA resolution

CONTRARY TO THE NEWS ARTICLE THAT quotes a statement made by Ilene Sagalong, legal counsel of PCGG nominee Enrique Loanzon, SC (RA 97), we would like to clarify that the concluded of Court of Appeals Associate Justice Mariflor P. Villaruna Jr. did not overrule our "Lucio Tan Defender Group"; rather did it uphold the dismissal of the Philcomsat case, based on lack of jurisdiction, by the SEC Hearing.

The Court of Appeals resolution in CA GR CV No. 88300, penned by Justice Villaruna and promulgated on June 8, 2007, merely dismissed the appeal, filed by one of our principals, on a procedural issue, based on a withdrawal of appeal. The case related to a 1998 special Stockholders' Meeting of Philcomsat, the validity of which was annulled by our classification. As Philcomsat subsequently held another special stockholders' meeting in September 2000, the case was rendered moot and academic, hence the request for its withdrawal.

—CIRILO BILDNER,
president, CEO,
Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.
(Philcomsat), Telecom/Naza Bldg.,
111 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

We refrain to question who based on a press statement released by a group in Philcomsat which somehow calls "Lucio Defender Group." I have subsequently interviewed Mr. Bildner, and her side has been written in no pride that she has submitted for publication.

—JAZMIN L. ROMA,
reporter, Inquirer

The safe, fast way to send and receive money worldwide

Your money arrives in 10 minutes*

For more information, please visit www.moneygram.com

RD PAWNSHOP, INC.

MoneyGram
International Money Transfer

RDCASH PADALA
Domestic Money Transfer

Bishops' foolishness

IT WAS A WISE ADVISOR. What possesses to throw that Chief Justice Reynato Puno, whom the bishops want to head a junta, or anyone else, will see for like or worse than the one he's supposed to replace? Righting a wrong with another does not make things right. Even if their suggestion were adopted, there is no certain to 2010. Patience is a virtue.

If government now part of the bishops' temporal responsibility? Look at the ridiculously moral decay we are now in. It seems we don't accept responsibility? They have failed miserably, so they want to take more responsibility. They will be more pusillanimous if they work hard at raising the moral standard of those who are coming after us morally bankrupt generation.

Unless they are planning to run for public office, good-sounding is not the way for them. They should back up morality as exemplified by Jesus.

—ALEX ENCARNACION,
opoc@yahoo.com

NEW LOWER Year-round Fares

NEW ROUTE

₱288 Cebu to Butuan

₱688 Manila to Boracay (Caticlan)
(starting February 20, 2008)
Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan)
(starting March 20, 2008)

INTERNATIONAL

₱999 Taipei*
Guangzhou
Xiamen

₱1,499 Bangkok
Hong Kong*
Kuala Lumpur
Macau

₱1,999 Jakarta
Singapore*
Shanghai

DOMESTIC

₱98 Cebu to Bacolod or Iloilo
Manila to Laoag or Legaspi

₱288 Cebu to Cagayan de Oro • Clark • Kalibo
Puerto Princesa or Zamboanga
Davao to Cebu or Zamboanga
Manila to Bacolod • Cebu • Dumaguete • Iloilo
Kalibo • Puerto Princesa • Roxas • Tacloban or Tagbilaran

₱688 Manila to Butuan • Cagayan de Oro • Cotabato
Davao • Siquijor • General Santos • Zamboanga

CEBU PACIFIC IS THE NO. 1 DOMESTIC AIRLINE!

CEBUPACIFICAIR.COM

CEBU PACIFIC

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Manila

E.H

ATTENTION: IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS

Please require your Customs Brokers to file your import entries through the internet at their offices and off-BOC internet cafes through their Value-Added Service Providers/VASPs (INS, E-Konek, CDEC) to reduce your time and cost of doing business.

Effectivity: November 1, 2007 - POM, MICP and NAIA; December 1, 2007 - Other Ports:

(Sgd.) **NAPOLEON L. MORALES**
Commissioner

World Pool: Nerves fail Filipino 'Superman'

From page 16

"I am so depressed," Gomez, a double degree holder from the University of the Philippines in Manilanan, told a packed conference before breaking down for the second time.

"I was almost there until I did not take the camera. I am sorry."

Gomez then went back to his native tongue, and admitted to cracking up.

"Mapalito sya, pero nalagang dala na rin ng first time na ma-collect nko dito. Dito's good but my being here for the first time was also a factor(),"Gomez said.

"Siguro, ang dami ko sa isip. Iniisipkong 'yun na lahat ng laro ni Efren, kasi ng Europe na 'yun kung papano siya dinomina. Many 15-all na, doon na lumaga. (I lost my focus. It happens to any player, it's up to him to control the situation. At 15-all, that's when I gave up.)

"I know the crowd was with me," Gomez, who settled for the $40,000 runner-up purse, added. "I really wanted to win for my country. But sometimes the crowd pressures me."

Awesome foe

"I have no one else to blame but myself," Gomez, who earned an 11-4 victory over England's Karl Boyes in the semifinals, added in Filipino. "I can't promise them anything, but I will try my best so that I could regain the crown of my countryman."

For his part, at 8 the 35-year-old Peach, a native of Blackpool, did not play a great match to earn the top prize of $100,000. He looked awesome, especially on the defensive end.

But part of his brilliance was overshadowed by the fact that Gomez, who had lost just 11 racks to the entire knockout stage to get this far, folded up.

"This is not a dream come true," Peach told reporters. "But honestly speaking, this was the easiest match that I played. The game plan just went out the window.

"You never think you can win the world championship, you only dream about it," said Peach, who also took out Filipinos Ronnie Alcano, the defending champion, in the Last 64, and sentimental favorite Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the quarterfinals.

Gomez, a former cruise reporter for a local television network back in his native Zamboanga, raided by as many as five racks, 8-3, after lapsing into a spate of silly errors which looked like a case of nerves more than anything else.

Soft breaks abandoned

He stayed rooted in his chair for quite a while as Peach put on a consistent display of efficient pool, until the Englishman softened his first hard break of the match when he scratched after breaking the 12th rack.

Both players abandoned the soft break after the 6th on the table was adhered, and this provided for a more exciting match with the breaks providing a different look on the table each time.

A few rack cluster of his own finally allowed Gomez to even at 8, but not after making the safest stand on his plus and another because of defensive shots on the Nos. 2 and 3 balls that led to an easy run out of the 16th rack.

Changing fortunes

And after making it 9-8 by pocketing his out to six racks, Gomez seemed to have the momentum on his side, getting Peach the chance to make it 9-9 all and engage the Filipino in a nip-and-tuck affair.

Gomez then turned a 16-12 deficit into that three-rack lead, playing loosely—for the first time—in the 27th frame, which was a routine run out for the 35-year-old Peach.

But everything eased in for the man nicknamed intentionally after the popular comic book superhero, as he banked on a jumpshot while playing out of another delicate Peach trap to hand a wide open table to the Englishman for 13-11.

Peach then ran out the next frame, and then the next before encountering trouble in the 37th after flubbing a kick shot on the 9.

"Sir (Gomez) could definitely win this tournament (in the future)," Peach said. "He could (the final match) he was playing the best pool in the tournament. He just fizzled a little bit in the end under pressure. You can't blame him for that."

The classic encounter gave the local crowd a better understanding of pool, as Peach engaged Gomez in a great defensive battle which almost always ended up in his favor.

In the end, the large crowd embraced Peach, applauding him solidly for his gutsy effort.

PEACH claims his World Pool trophy.

SHARP

4-Speaker System | 10cm | Great Design

GREAT SOUND. GREAT DESIGN.

Japanese Technology

PROMO up to Dec.31 only!

SHARP MOVIE BUFF BUNDLE

Get a Flat TV at
0% interest for 12 months

0% Interest

Add P999 and get a DVD Player*

* for every purchase of a Sharp 21" or 29" Flat TV

Add P8,000 and get a Sharp Home Theater System**

** for every purchase of a Sharp 29" Flat TV only

Use your AIG, Bankard, BDO, BPI, Citibank, Equitable PCI, HSBC, Metrobank, Standard Chartered or Unionbank credit card, and you can avail of the 0% interest scheme for 12 whole months!*

Promo Period: October 20 to December 31, 2007 at participating SHARP outlet nationwide. *Subject to bank approval. Accepted credit cards may vary per outlet. See flyers for details. DTI-NCR Permit No. 0440, Series of 2007

Resign-snap poll bid has no critical mass

From page A1

an impetuous to cut short a president's elected term. They represented starting constitutional procedures and instantaneous to get rid of a widely reviled leader. The withdrawal of military support to the Estrada administration led to a nonviolent leadership change, but it was nonetheless a coup, albeit a soft putsch.

The opposition here enjoyed the fragility of coercion as a democratic mechanism for political change and the readiness of activist groups to disrupt the electoral mechanism and to accept abstract solutions to fragile regimes.

It is not my intention to discourage the use "nonviolent struggle" maneuvers or to point out the futility of the campaign. I am up to the brink with outrage over the evil baronies of this administration, the wave of endless corruption scandals, the shark squad killings of political activists, the diminution of political liberties, and the torture of human rights victims and angry to some members of civil society over these issues.

Need to assess prospects

But outraged citizens cannot ignore the need to assess the prospects of success of their new project. There is nothing more lethal to the movement than to have miserable expectations of its success.

Organizers have launched a signature campaign hoping it might spark a groundswell of support that would put pressure on Mr Arroyo and the Castro to step down and call a snap election.

But the organizers said in their manifesto: "We are a diverse group of organizations and we all know prior to this there are several individual campaigns working for (this) broader's cause. This petition is not an appeal to (Mr) Arroyo's conscience but this is meant to awaken people."

This precisely is the problem. Is there a consistency for such a mass movement riding the wave of apparently widespread and deep-seated public unrest? Is there an issue that can serve to catalyst to awaken the people to come in a mass action?

If there's none, no matter how much the sage, the movement becomes a romantic adventure. The manifesto is realistic enough to concede that based on the organizers' "frank assessment, impeachment have an uphill battle." It added: "We all know impeachment is a numbers game."

But more so is the call for "mendum, people's numbers game. This manifesto is virtually a call for mobilization of another people power to put pressure on the Arroyo and De Castro to quit and clear the way for snap election.

According to the manifesto, a snap election is "the surest route option to establish democracy." The call for the President and Vice President to quit "is the most logical and theoretically possible option ... because) it passes the test of actual but feasible."

Feasibility of solution

In other words, the organizers of the latest anti-Arroyo drive want to have it both ways—mass action or people power (extra-constitutional means) and resignation (constitutional means) through voluntary exit.

One wonders about the feasibility of this solution. He one gives up power voluntarily.

The manifesto rejected the approach of another group calling for Mr Arroyo's resignation to be followed by the formation of a junta implausibly manned as a "council of government." Can would call an election to legitimize it.

Calling a junta a caretaker government is unfortunate. Now matter how you disguise it, a junta is a fascistic structure enabling a military coup.

The manifesto branded the junta as a "particular erroneous" option, even if it would be headed by the Chief Justice in a three man. This option usually originates from groups associated with military groups engaged in conspiracy.

Without going into a debate over the legal gymnastics to be followed to implement the constitutional mandate governing succession in case of the President's resignation or incapacity, the issue must first be settled—the circumstances under which the President steps down.

This remains highly hypothetical, and the manifesto is vague about this. It leaves things to chance.

Estrada's suggestion

The best answer to the dilemma over how to "reunion the people" was offered by former President Joseph Estrada after his ouster.

The first thing Estrada did after regaining his freedom was to distance himself from calls for Mr Arroyo's resignation. He said it was "the people—the poor sector, which is the largest sector of our society—who should choose and decide who they want to run or replace the government, not the few elitists and chauvinists."

Estrada learned from experience who were responsible for his overthrow. He gave the statement in response to questions whether he had abandoned the opposition after his pardon.

His creative gesture flabbergasted opposition leaders. It left in doubt his bona fide status as an opposition symbol.

Estrada has passed on to the Arroyo-regime movement a challenge to find out whether the people are ready to respond to its call. As far as the manifesto of the movement is concerned, it is still a work in progress.

Saguisag finally told his wife died in accident

By DJ Yap

FORMER SEN. Rene Saguisag was finally told of his wife Dulce's demise yesterday morning but he kept a strong face upon hearing the sad news, his son Bebo said yesterday.

He did not cheat, Bebo said, but his blood pressure "shot up." Bebo told reporters at the Makati Medical Center lobby.

"He's always been strong," he said of his father. "Our dilemma was whether to volunteer the information, or wait until he got better," he told the reporters.

The doctors at the Makati Med were split on the issue, he said.

One group wanted to inform him regardless of his condition while another group believed it was better to wait until Saguisag was better. "Pero mommy, he asked," Bebo said. "He had to tell him the truth."

Asked if his father cried, Bebo said "no," adding that "he's always been strong."

Doctors were on hand the entire hour to monitor his condition.

They waved a rose in his blood pressure after he was finally told about Dulce's death in the car accident they met early Thursday morning. Dulce was the only fatality. The doctors assured the family the incision in blood pressure was normal but some who had just received had news.

Bebo said his father was "okay now" and had gone to sleep. But he remembered that the detail of who broke the news to Saguisag he kept private. Bebo said Saguisag then asked how his wife's sisters were doing.

He described his father as "dominant rally improving on my day."

Saguisag, who had a tube inserted in his mouth from a respirator to help him breathe, could communicate with his family and doctors by writing notes and body signals, like nodding. His penmanship, "had at it it," had also begun looking normal, Bebo said.

Saguisag, who kept asking when he could go home. "Can I go home now?" Bebo quoted his father as asking.

Gov to use cash gift . . .

From page A1

on Oct. 11 in Malacañang before his election urged to do with the money.

Padilla, a Catholic priest on leave, was the first province to admit he had received P500,000 in a paper bag handed to his chief of staff by Mendoza, purportedly for barangay projects, on his way to his eye clinic a few hours ahead of second 2004 local offensive with Mr Arroyo.

Earlier that day Mr Arroyo had over breakfast with several 90 congressmen, at least three of whom admitted they were given from P300,000 to P500,000 that opposition politicians denounced as a bribe.

The breakfast was described by critics as alleged attempt by the administration to turn through the House of Representatives a worst impeachment case filed by a private banker against Mr Arroyo that could be easily killed, thus preempting the opposition from lodging a stronger complaint under a new impeachment rule that can be lodged the same month move against the President.

The Senate has scheduled for Nov. 14 the opening of an investigation on the Oct. 13 gift-giving in Malacañang. The inquiry will touch among other things on whether the handouts constituted bribery and corruption and who determine the fund of the money.

Civil society groups have urged Mr Arroyo to step down and call a snap election.

Malacañang had disclaimed knowledge of the cash gifts, although the President's party, Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), had belatedly acknowledged that it was the source of the P500,000 given to each of at least two congressmen—Rep. Arnulfo Abcede Jr. of Manila and Thomas Dumpit of La Union.

Capability building

Officials of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) had admitted that it was the source of some of the money given to officials and members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. The LPP said it had P23 million from membership contributions and that the cash gifts were for "capability building."

Mendoza said that while he preferred to use part of the amount to buy flowering and ornamental plants, his plan would depend on the approval of the provincial board.

"We should seek for an SP (Sangguniang Panlalawigan) resolution to authorize the use of the money because it has been turned over to the provincial treasury. I sought the advice of many people and they advised me to use the money," he said.

Mendoza said he thought of the beautification project upon learning from Virgilio Almario of the College of Arts and Letters of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, talk about the rich history of Bulacan.

Almario, a National Artist for literature and a native of Bulacan, was guest during the governor's meeting.

Mendoza believed that there was nothing wrong in spending the P500,000 to improve the garden that would serve as a reminder and inspiration for Bulakenyos, especially the youth, to excel in their chosen fields.

The garden features a "Walk of Fame," where the names and handprints of artists and entertainment and media personalities who once their seen to Bulacan will be preserved.

Senate investigation

Mendoza also said he would attend the Senate investigation of the cash gift "if called to appear."

He said he would "say what I had revealed on Dec. 22 and stated by Sitong (Mayor) Ed."

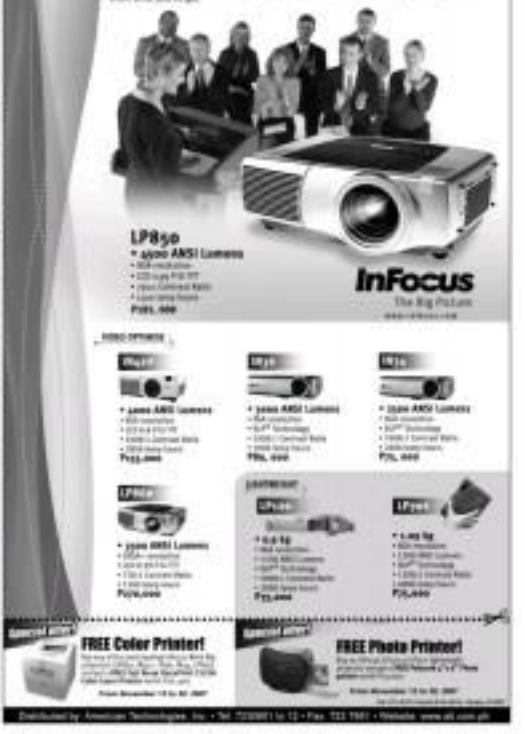
"But no talaga yun (That's final)," the governor said of what he disclosed in an Oct. 22 press conference.

In his statement, Mendoza said the two paper bags containing P500,000 each were handed to him by a woman in white in a room beside the Mercure Hall in which the two congressmen were having a breakfast with Mr Arroyo.

In the room were Interior Undersecretary Jeosrey Donadieu, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Edward Hines, and a man Mendoza did not know.

It was while walking toward the Palace's gate that Mendoza gave one of the bags to Andrew Reyes, Padilla's chief of staff.

Deputy earlier said he would attend the Senate blue ribbon committee on Nov. 14.



Comelec security beefed up

Newspaper A1

the lunch closed circuit television would provide more clues to the murder.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yeguesling Jr., head of the Manila Police District homicide division, said investigators had yet to be informed by the suspect's camp against to use the footage taken on M.H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets.

Cavite poll exec also killed

Dalisay was one of two Comelec officials recently gunned down on Tuesday.

The head of the Comelec office in Bacoor, Cavite, Joseph del Rosario, 46, was shot dead while having a drinking session inside a house in General Trias, Cavite.

Senior Supt. Felipe Pendaliz, Cavite police director, said three men entered the house, shot Rosario on close range, and fled.

Vital footage

During the local elections in May, Rosario was tagged as a hot spot after unusual confidence around each other of shooting and harassment.

"We were asked by the hotel management to make a formal letter before they decide if they will give us access to the footage," Yeguesling said.

He said a Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. employee who had recognized Dalisay and told us that Dalisay was a regular player at the casino.

This could explain the P100,000 in cash Dalisay was carrying at the time of his death, Yeguesling said.

Robbery was ruled out since the cash was untouched, but investigators that Dalisay supposedly had at the casino would be looked into, he said.

Yeguesling said the footage could show who Dalisay was often with or who were the people he had spoken to.

Witnesses afraid

The homicide chief said the police had also been hurried by the management from going inside the hotel's parking area, where Dalisay was believed to have left his car.

Yeguesling said an informant had told the police that Dalisay might have left his Toyota Revo there. But Yeguesling said investigators could not confirm this as of yesterday, although they had the car key.

But even one eyewitness has come forward, Yeguesling said.

He added it was unlikely that none of the residents or jeepney drivers in the area had seen the incident.

"I think they are just afraid... but we will coerce them to tell their story. We do not even know yet how many residents there were or how they escaped," he said.

Yeguesling said the hotel's security guard was found near the entrance but claimed that after hearing a gunshot, he only saw Dalisay slumped on the street and did not see any gunmen.

Other angles

Yeguesling said the police were also looking into other angles, such as the possible job Dalisay held at the Comelec.

"We will also check his responding raid decided cases at the Comelec, covering election-related cases and interested issues involving Comelec officers and employees," he said.

Dalisay was director of the Comelec's law department, which handles election cases.

Yeguesling said Dalisay's wife confirmed that her husband had received death threats, but that the source or sources of the threats had yet to be known because Dalisay's cell phone was said to be his wife.

Asunan said it was "too early to tell" if there was a need for additional security for the commissioner. All of the commissioners have close security," he said.

Comelec reacting

Asunan also said election officials' concerned, there are many," he added.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said the Comelec would meet en banc on Tuesday and might take up ways to improve security for poll officials.

Sarmiento himself said he was thinking of taking precautionary measures even though he had not received any death threats.

First said present Comelec officials received Dalisay's death.

Sarmiento said Dalisay—previously cautioned as a possible candidate for the job of commissioner—had played a key role at the poll body because of his vast knowledge of election law that had earned him the label "lawyer" or "Comelecionario."

Dalisay started his Comelec career three decades ago.

A fatalist

Former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who resigned in the post following accusations he helped broker the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China, also had high praise for Dalisay.

"He was a walking election book. He had memorized all the provisions of the election code, every period and comma," Abalos said.

He also described Dalisay as a "fatalist."

"He told me that he does not give a damn about those threats. He said, 'I just do my job as I see it.' He was such a good man," Abalos said.

He said it could not be avoided that some losing candidates would make threats against election officials but that most of those were empty threats made out of desperation.

Dalisay in tears

Abalos said the last time he saw Dalisay was during the testimonial dinner for him after he announced his resignation. He said he saw Dalisay in tears when he bade Comelec personnel goodbye.

Rosario in Lincoln del Mar-ia said the killing of Dalisay could be related to a local contract during the May 14 polls.

One source said the speed of delay in the resolution of poll protests largely depended on how Dalisay's law department disposed of them.

At the height of the "Hello Garci" tape controversy—involving alleged rigging the 2004 presidential election—Dalisay admitted having figured in the wiretapped conversation with then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The latter, in turn, is one of the controversial tape's main actors.

In a transcript of the tape obtained by the Inquirer, the name Dalisay or Dalisay cropped in one conversation that apparently dealt with a local election contest.

Senators urged the police to look deeper into Abalos of Dalisay and Del Rosario.

"Though these two incidents may be unrelated to each other and to the victims' line of work, it still calls for a thorough investigation and for the killers to be identified and brought to justice," Sen. Richard Gordon said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said: "If Dalisay was a Comelec official, it had to do something with the elections. I just hope that the violence in other parts of the Philippines, especially in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), do not spread here in Metro Manila." With reports from *Gil Cabacungan in Manila, Jhoanna Barroa, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Rachel Infante and Ryan D. Rosauro in Cotabato Mindanao*

David's journey of triumph against autism

Newspaper A1

"There is no cure, but through education and training, autism can be treated," he said at the close of the two-day national conference at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco, Manila, on "A Life Journey with Autism: Hope after Diagnosis".

For the ASD which organized the conference, autism is not a tragedy. Ignorance is the tragedy. The organization reminds that parents of children with autism should not despair, claiming that 1 in 150 children is diagnosed with ASD.

"There is no cure for autism, because if autism is treated, it is treatable. Many children with autism, especially with early intervention, make a considerable improvement. Parents have to empower them to achieve to give them children a better life," the group stresses.

Their vision: "ASP sees an environment that helps persons with ASD to blossom, to the level of their potentials, self-reliant, independent, productive and socially accepted members of society."

Based on information from the ASD, autism "typically appears during the child's first three years. Its four main symptoms or issues to make them to be undue, and has been found throughout the world to have the of children and to all backgrounds."

"People with ASD live normal life spans and some of the behaviors associated with it may change and disappear over time," said the ASD.

Symptoms

The symptoms of ASD, according to appear in toddlers, include:

+ No pointing by one year.
+ No babbling by one year or no single words by 16 months or no two-word phrases by 24 months.
+ Any loss of language skills at any time.
+ No pretend play.
+ Little interest in making friends.
+ Extremely short attention span.
+ No response when called by name or indifference to others.
+ Little or no eye contact.
+ Repetitive body movements such as hand flapping or twirling, or twirling objects.
+ Fixation on a single object.
+ Unusually strong resistance to changes in routines.

Dr. Alicia Bayor of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, stressed in her discussion: "Early intervention works. We started with mild the symptoms are very obvious."

DAVID Michael Lopez, taking proof that being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder is not the end of the world, addresses the national conference of the Autism Society of the Philippines at the Philippine Columbian Association in Paco, Manila. NONOY

According to Bayor, treatment within the developmental framework is most effective to arrest the incidence of ASD, which is reported to be steadily increasing here and abroad.

Talking like a parrot

In his speech with mimicking Hyperbolic presentation, Lopez recounted his struggles as a child that began when his parents did "lots of massage" on his neck thinking it would help him speak.

"They also put a spoon in my mouth, and had a baby bowler neck on me. After a week or two I was talking like a parrot," he said as the crowd laughed.

A special education program at Calderilla, an alternative school foundation in Los Baños, Laguna, founded and Lopez

"I learned new skills that changed my attitude," said Lopez. It was there that he learned to eat properly, to wait for his turn, and to develop manners, such by joining sports activities.

He described high school in Calderilla as "challenging, full of hard work and fun," he excelled as spokesperson parties with girls and "automatic evenings" at interior center prom.

"I learned new skills that changed my attitude," said Lopez. It was there that he learned to eat properly, to wait for his turn, and to develop manners, such by joining sports activities.

He described high school in Calderilla as "challenging, full of hard work and fun," he excelled as spokesperson parties with girls and "automatic evenings" at interior center prom.

a trip to Thailand, his first foreign visit courtesy of Unocal, was a dream come true.

"I think I painted more coconut-lickers other this trip," he said, as he relaxed eating grasshoppers and laughing to buy a black Buddha image down from 600 baht to 200 baht.

'I did not lose hope'

Lopez said he was disappointed he failed the entrance exams of University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas. "But I did not lose hope in life," he said.

He was accepted at Lyceum where he chose to take up AB Communication because he "wanted to communicate with other people."

A voracious writer, Lopez also started blogging through accounts at Multiply and Blogger.

"Hopefully, I will land a job soon to help my parents, search for the right girl, get married and raise my family," he said as the audience clapped loudly.

"The future is there waiting for me. I know it will be hard but I have wished those steps. The next step is really not that hard anymore ... I told for an opportunity to everyone to persevere, to never lose hope in your dear child is afflicted with autism. I know that not everybody can be like me, but I know in their own lives that one discipline what I have achieved."

Norman Mailer, towering literary figure, dies at 84

Newspaper A1

failure at Mount Sinai Hospital. J. Michael Lennon, the author's literary executor and biographer, said.

"He was a great American voice," said a friend, Jean Stein, author of "The Year of Magical Thinking" and other works, struggling for words upon learning of Mailer's death.

From "The Naked and the Dead," his soldier's classic about combat aboard a remote island in the South Pacific during World War II, to such monumental works of literary journalism as "The Armies of the Night," the first three Pulitzer Prize winner always got credit for bright, passion and originality.

But his critics' works were highly praised, some panned, but none was pronounced the Great American Novel that seemed to be his life quest from the time he soared to the top in a frantic 28-month "culture rumble."

Mailer built and marketed an image, fought, married multiple times, married six times and dabbled his second wife, almost fatally, during a drunken party.

He had nine children, made a quixotic bid to become mayor of New York City on a "left conservative" platform, produced five forgettable films, dabbled in journalism, flew in gliders, challenged professional boxers, was bested from a Manhattan YMHA (Young Women's Hebrew Association), a Jewish community center, for inviting obscene poetry. Avoided publicly with writer Gore Vidal and crusaded against prisoners' liberalism.

Run-ins with law

Mailer had numerous run-ins with the law, usually for being drunk or disorderly, but was also jailed briefly during the Pentagon protests in the late 1960s. After directing the film "Maidstone" in 1968, the self-described "old club fighter" punched actor Lee Smith, breaking his jaw, and hit actor Rip Torn's ear in another scuffle.

But as Hemingway, newman Hayward Schulberg said in 1968, "he's the real, it is the writing that will count."

Mailer possessed "a superb natural style that does not crack under the pressures he puts upon it," Schulberg added.

He added it was unlikely that most of the readers or jeepney drivers in the area had seen the incident.

"I think they are just afraid... but we will coerce them to tell their story. We do not even know yet how many residents there were or how they escaped," he said.

Yeguesling said the hotel's security guard was found near the entrance but claimed that after hearing a gunshot, he only saw Dalisay slumped on the street and did not see any gunmen.

Other angles

Yeguesling said the police were also looking into other angles, such as the possible job Dalisay held at the Comelec.

"We will also check his responding raid decided cases at the Comelec, covering election-related cases and interested issues involving Comelec officers and employees," he said.

Dalisay was director of the Comelec's law department, which handles election cases.

Yeguesling said Dalisay's wife confirmed that her husband had received death threats, but that the source or sources of the threats had yet to be known because Dalisay's cell phone was said to be his wife.

Asunan said it was "too early to tell" if there was a need for additional security for the commissioner. All of the commissioners have close security," he said.

Comelec reacting

Asunan also said election officials' concerned, there are many," he added.

Commissioner Rene Sarmiento said the Comelec would meet en banc on Tuesday and might take up ways to improve security for poll officials.

Sarmiento himself said he was thinking of taking precautionary measures even though he had not received any death threats.

First said present Comelec officials received Dalisay's death.

Sarmiento said Dalisay—previously cautioned as a possible candidate for the job of commissioner—had played a key role at the poll body because of his vast knowledge of election law that had earned him the label "lawyer" or "Comelecionario."

Dalisay started his Comelec career three decades ago.

A fatalist

Former Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who resigned in the post following accusations he helped broker the controversial $329-million broadband deal with China, also had high praise for Dalisay.

"He was a walking election book. He had memorized all the provisions of the election code, every period and comma," Abalos said.

He also described Dalisay as a "fatalist."

"He told me that he does not give a damn about those threats. He said, 'I just do my job as I see it.' He was such a good man," Abalos said.

He said it could not be avoided that some losing candidates would make threats against election officials but that most of those were empty threats made out of desperation.

Dalisay in tears

Abalos said the last time he saw Dalisay was during the testimonial dinner for him after he announced his resignation. He said he saw Dalisay in tears when he bade Comelec personnel goodbye.

Rosario in Lincoln del Mar-ia said the killing of Dalisay could be related to a local contract during the May 14 polls.

One source said the speed of delay in the resolution of poll protests largely depended on how Dalisay's law department disposed of them.

At the height of the "Hello Garci" tape controversy—involving alleged rigging the 2004 presidential election—Dalisay admitted having figured in the wiretapped conversation with then Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The latter, in turn, is one of the controversial tape's main actors.

In a transcript of the tape obtained by the Inquirer, the name Dalisay or Dalisay cropped in one conversation that apparently dealt with a local election contest.

Senators urged the police to look deeper into Abalos of Dalisay and Del Rosario.

"Though these two incidents may be unrelated to each other and to the victims' line of work, it still calls for a thorough investigation and for the killers to be identified and brought to justice," Sen. Richard Gordon said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said: "If Dalisay was a Comelec official, it had to do something with the elections. I just hope that the violence in other parts of the Philippines, especially in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), do not spread here in Metro Manila." With reports from *Gil Cabacungan in Manila, Jhoanna Barroa, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Rachel Infante and Ryan D. Rosauro in Cotabato Mindanao*

MAILER AFP

First book

Mailer entered his engineering science degree in 1943 from Harvard University, where he decided to become a writer. He once wrote he edited into the drama.

Sent to the Philippines as an infantryman, Mailer saw enough of soldiering to provide a basis for his first book, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1948 while he was a postgraduate student in Paris.

The book became a best-seller, and Mailer returned home to find himself anointed the new Hemingway. Dos Passos and Melville.

Buoyed by instant literary celebrity, Mailer embraced the early 1950s counterculture, declaring "hip" his style over "The White Negro," relying himself with Beat Generation gurus Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and writing social and political commentary for the "Village Voice, which he helped found.

The big comeback

He also churned out five more novels. "Barbary Shore" (1951) and "Deer Park" (1955), which were neither embraced kindly by readers or critics.

"White Negro" magazine called his next book, "American Dream" (1965), "the big scandal of Norman Mailer," the author journalist was obsessing more and more events of the day—as an

When Mailer was enough of soldiering to provide a basis for his first book, "The Naked and the Dead," published in 1948 while he was a postgraduate student in Paris.

The book became a best-seller, and Mailer returned home to find himself anointed the new Hemingway. Dos Passos and Melville.

Buoyed by instant literary celebrity, Mailer embraced the early 1950s counterculture, declaring "hip" his style over "The White Negro," relying himself with Beat Generation gurus Jack Kerouac and Allen Ginsberg, and writing social and political commentary for the "Village Voice, which he helped found.

The big comeback

He also churned out five more novels. "Barbary Shore" (1951) and "Deer Park" (1955), which were neither embraced kindly by readers or critics.

"White Negro" magazine called his next book, "American Dream" (1965), "the big scandal of Norman Mailer," the author journalist was obsessing more and more events of the day—as an

time much on Washington, the 1960 political conventions, the Muhammad Ali-Floyd Patterson fight, an Apollo moon shot.

His 1968 account of the peace marches on the Pentagon, "The Armies of the Night," won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Anja Hendrix, editor of Mailer's Spanish publishers, Anagrama, said that Mailer was a fixture of literature who, like Kafka, was never understood, he'd write. "He surely had his excessive a profile for that award," Hendrix said.

A courageous person

Mailer's personal life was as backdrop as the times in which he lived. In 1960, a party at his Brooklyn Heights home, he stabbed his second wife, Adele Morales, with a knife. The deed to party changes, and it was not until 1997 that the circumstances were revealed.

"The wound is nothing to worry about—the master bone, nerve, nothing, thanks, publication," author Jay Talese said. "He never thought the wound

sales were restricted. He'd go overboard and try anything. He was a courageous person, a great person, fully conflicted, with a great sense of epic value."

In acknowledgment by myself" (1959), Mailer promised to write the greatest novel yet, but later conceded he had not. Among his other notable works were "Cannibals and Christians" (1966), "Why Are We in Vietnam?" (1967), and "Miami and the Siege of Chicago" (1968).

In 1905, Mailer received a gold medal for lifetime achievement of the National Book Awards, where he deplored what he called the "withering" of genuine interest in the "serious novel." Author Mailer himself, he said often, had become anachronistic as people increasingly turned on television and young writers aspired to screen writing or journalism.

Lennon said arrangements for a private service and burial for Mailer, who died in his home Monday would be announced next week, and a memorial service would be held in New York in the coming months. AP

Across the NATION

CBCP head pushes rejection of coal plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—JARO ARCHBISHOP ANGEL LAGDAMEO, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), said Ilonggos should reject the proposed coal-fired power plant here warning of health and environmental risks.

He said the clergy in the city would meet and help explain to their flock the dangers posed by coal-fired plant.

"It is better to act on the preventive level rather than environmental problems resulting from coal plant(s) rather than on the cure," Lagdameo told the Inquirer in Wednesday at the sidelines of a forum on coal plants sponsored by the Archdiocese of Jaro.

Environmental groups and the Catholic Church are opposing a plan to put up a 130 megawatt coal plant in Barangay Ingore in La Paz District here by the Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC) and Panay Power Corp. (PPC).

The project is among those considered to boost the energy capacity of Iloilo City and Panay Island.

City officials were supporting the project citing the need for a stable supply of energy especially with the increasing power demand resulting from infrastructure, and development projects.

But the head of the University of the Philippines-based National Poison Management and Control Center, said the project should be opposed, warning of adverse health hazards on residents especially children.

Dr. Lynn Bengzon-Ilan, a professor at the UP College of Medicine-Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, said local government officials should be challenged to look for safe alternatives to power generation other than coal-fired plants.

"It is general knowledge that coal-fired power plants have been the major source of air pollution all over the world. In fact, their emissions have been major contributors to the global warming phenomenon we are currently experiencing," said Bengzonilan, an Ilonggo, in a letter read during the forum.

Bengzonilan pointed out that emissions from coal-fired power plants are composed of pollutants such as sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, pulverulent hydrocarbon, total gaseous hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide, and metallic such as mercury and arsenic.

The toxicologist cited a study published in the journal Environmental Research in January 2007, which stated that "air pollution from coal-fired power stations, although not exceeding local pollution standards, had a negative effect in children's lung function development."

Coal plant proponents said the plants utilize the circulating fluidized bed combustion (CFBC) which they say limits emissions within internationally accepted levels and the Clean Air Act.

The plant's operation will also be strictly monitored to ensure that it meets safety and health standards, they said.

But Bengzonilan said that "although there have been attempts to address the toxic discharges with new technologies, we are still in the stage of merely reducing these emissions and have no methods of totally eliminating them."

She said the establishment of a coal-fired power plant would require stringent and efficient monitoring of its impact on health and environment.

But she said in her 17 years as a toxicologist, "I still have to see an efficiently operating monitoring system that seriously looks into health and environmental impacts of pollutants in the country."

THE "END MARKER" in Barangay Real in Tiaong on Jaro. [illegible]

Markers to enlighten Andaya Highway critics

TAGKAWAYAN, QUEZON—TO INSIDE the stigma attached to Andaya Highway here because for its potholes and cracks, the Department of Public Works and Highways in Quezon province has put up markers on both ends of their territorial jurisdiction.

Bernel Ilan, head of DPWH-Quezon 4th Engineering District, said they put up the markers to help clarify to motorists that the roads, ups and "tumors" in many portions of the highway are outside their territory.

"Every time the bad condition of the Andaya Highway was being hit in the media, our office was most often the recipient of all the brickbats due to misunderstanding. That's certain because the Quezon side is still maintained," Ilan argued.

He stated that the misconception started when nine barangays of Calauag, Quezon were officially transferred to the jurisdiction of Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte five years ago.

With the changes in boundaries, Ilan said the first 1.7 kilometers south of the Andaya Highway that was then under the jurisdiction of Quezon had since been placed under Camarines Norte.

"What was left to Quezon province was 29 km which we have been regularly maintaining," Ilan said.

Motorists going to and from Bicol and other parts of southern Philippines have complained of the bad condition of the highway.

While it is being concerned, many sections of the 93-km stretch are still rough, resulting in one-lane passages.

The heaviest stated the highway and found the 3.7-km portion of the highway under the supervision of Bicol full of potholes and cracks with vehicles finding it hard to shift to second gear.

Duffie T. Mallari Jr. and Elphi Antonio Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Community is torn between 2 villages

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Inquirer Mindanao

GUIMBO CITY—GATHERED IN A SMALL dancing hall in the small, covered residents of Manabay, a suburban community here, discussed prospects for them after the just concluded village polls. From where they stood in a half-paved hundred meter road that leads into the coastal area.

The road-paving project has been stalled for over five years now due to lack of funds. Barangay Catadman, to which the community belonged, has not been receiving its share of revenues derived from Manabay vanpassers, hence the project has to wait for "spare funds" to complete.

This situation becomes worrisome until every infrastructure needs of the community, especially potable water supply and a drainage system, due to expanding population.

The problem facing Manabay results from a dilapidation of the community's governance plight, making the management of its affairs complicated. Although a more local status was set, the true nature was to function on the policy environment for local governance, the village being the smallest political unit of the country.

Territory

As a political-administrative territory, Manabay belongs to Catadman. Its residents are concerned among Barangay Catadman's constituency.

But as a fiscal territory, Manabay belongs to its northern neighbor, Barangay Maningcol. Hence, the share of revenues derived from its Envoy 30-hectare territorial expanse went to being used for Maningcol residents.

As a revenue source, Manabay has a rich potential. The area's barren coastal strip and lush foothills now hosts container yards, warehouses, and two passers processing plants.

This fast acculturation the chairot of Manabay residents for a rightful share of development funds.

Several years back, residents of Manabay have urged Catadman leaders to exert effort to take hold of the revenue share undue by going into Maningcol's coffers.

This was met with protest by Maningcol leaders to entice Manabay residents to integrate with them politically. The Maningcol leaders' campaign was accompanied by the utilization of petty projects.

As the competing moves led to a standoff on the question of owning the fiscal resources, Manabay residents launched the Resident Barangay Manabay Movement, a confederate that transits to on their side.

Alfredo Cotanga, a retired local government technocrat who formed and led the movement, argued that based on official documents, Manabay is the "mother barangay" of Catadman.

Cadastral maps and references as early as the 1950s indicate "Barrio Manabay" as a location. So, subsequent legislation has led to the dissolution of Manabay as a political-administrative unit, Cotanga noted.

Those old locational references even defines Manabay's territory as comprising once lush mangrove fields which are now settlements whose residents belong, politically, to Maningcol.

But when older Manabay residents were asked, the late Aquiner del Sorbo then can remember, a certain Hiboya, held office until the late 1970s.

Cotanga also said that as a settlement, Manabay predates Catadman which was then "just a long coastal strip of mangrove swamps."

"How come the earlier barangay now becomes a mere sitio?" asked Cotanga, explaining that the issue should not just be simplistically seen as a dispute over territorial boundary but rather a rightful recognition of a political entity.

Manabay is separated from Catadman by a river; another river over a kilometer away also separates it from Maningcol.

But the city government's "fiscal map" recognizes the territory immediately following the Catadman-Manabay river border as belonging to Maningcol. This means that Manabay no longer exists as a distinct fiscal territory, but as a mere sitio of Maningcol.

Today, Manabay residents are grouped into two purok whose respective leaders represent them before the barangay government. Even as the polls are over, there is still the brewing longing for them having greater policy-making voice.

Secessionist tendency

During the recent barangay elections, no Manabay resident was elected as member of the barangay council. Traditionally, Catadman voters ensure Manabay's perceived "secessionist" tendencies before joining the political bids of its residents running for polls. As an electoral base, Manabay is no match to the Catadman bailiwick.

Arnold Ishita, a former Manabay purok leader, aptly paints the quandary: "There is obviously the challenge of enhancing our political voice (within Catadman). But pressing our issues now, Catadman leaders are still not fiscally empowered to respond to our needs. We can set the demand projects from Maningcol because we have no voice in their governance."

Technically, it's best of a bundle to be part of Maningcol because it really solves political competition, but socially, Manabay residents are much more alike with Catadman, native-cultivated, shaking his head.

SEIKO

Powerful Performance.
Remarkable Convenience.

SEIKO Kinetic Diver's Watch
Powered By The Movement Of Your Body. No Battery Change.
"Set & Forget" Convenience.

www.sscl.com.ph

THE BEST SERVICE FOR SEIKO & ALBA WATCHES AT THESE SEIKO SERVICE CENTERS

ALBA

Foreign youths arrive in Baguio for Delphic Games

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—REPORTS OF the Oct. 19 explosion at Glorietta 2 shopping mall have soured many foreign participants in the 3rd Junior Delphic Games, the world artists' equivalent of the Olympic Games, which is being hosted this week by Baguio.

But the 320 youths who arrived here on Saturday from Russia, Germany and South Korea proved that nothing really frightened them, said Brenna Bautista, president of the International Delphic Council (IDC).

German Ambrosi began practicing their leaps at the Baguio Convention Center stage, while German and Russia youths showed off their dance steps.

The games will formally open on Monday for the first time, these will recognize hip-hop music as a form of world art.

The first major Delphic Games was launched in 2000, three years after the Junior Games was held in Milan.

More than 100 Korean delegates, garbed in colorful Korean traditional costumes, arrived on Saturday.

J. Christian Kirsch, who organized the Delphic Movement in Germany, arrived on Friday, accompanied by 17 German artists.

Bautista said the presence of the delegates and officials made up for the four generals abroad by the Olympic explosion in Makati City which almost cost the IDC this year's junior games.

She said many foreign participants cancelled hotel and plane bookings, "and we could no longer change their plane when [the police] contacted [the bomb threat]."

The country had fought hard to host the games, which Bautista co-founded in 1994 when she and other world artists heeded Kirsch's call to form the IDC.

Kirsch, IDC secretary general, said the World Delphic Games was meant to be the modern world's homage to the original Delphic Games or Pythian Games held in 6 B.C. and from which the Olympic Games was patterned.

But unlike the Olympic sports events, the Delphic Games focuses on "the creative spirit of peoples," Bautista said.

The IDC website says this "spiritual competition of peoples and races will reverse and resolve world cultures, strengthen their identities and lead to reconciliation."

The Delphic Games also allows host countries to design their own competitions.

The competitions allowed by the new previous junior games involved the classical arts, such as traditional singing and impersonations of theater and dance, as well as a match between youths performing their country's indigenous rituals.

The Philippines introduced a hip-hop crop dancer and musician tournament this year, Bautista said. This has been received highly by participants from the United States, Japan, China, South Africa and Germany, she said.

"I really don't know anything about hip-hop but it has its own language and rules," she said. "But hip-hop competitions all over the world[, but the Delphic Games is the first universal competition that will acknowledge it as an art form," she said.

It is a popular form of culinary that has offended organizers of world events, she said, how the IDC welcomed hip-hop rapping and dancing to legitimize that "the world is changing, and we have to change with it."

Kirsch said the IDC "honors new forms of communication, poetry and literature, as long as I feel it is not misused [or encourage expressions that are] destructive."

It opposes hip-hop to computer language and slave messaging system (SMS) or texting, which the public first addressed with suspicion before it embraced these forms of cultural revolutions, he said.

Kirsch said the IDC hoped that including hip-hop in the games would draw attention to the strength of the world's youths.

BURNHAM PARK has become the lair of jugglers. Fleet and Management Management students from different universities began training themselves in gimnasia, harnessing for a competition scheduled this month. —AGNES

Nag-TEXT ng detalye ng RESIBO mula sa biniling paninda

NGAYON, may P 1 MILLION na!

PREMYO SA RESIBO

Resibo mo. Panalo mo.
LINGGO-LINGGO ang pagkakataon mong maging MILYONARYO!

WINNING ENTRY	NEXT DRAW
NOV 9 DRAW 000088471854	NOV 16 QUALIFIED RECEIPTS SEPT 1-NOV 15, 2007

1	2	3	4
Mga resibong may numero sa kahit anong transaksyon.	Siguraduhing kumpleto ang detalye sa resibo.	Pwede ang anumang halaga.	Panoorin ang WEEKLY DRAW sa ABC 5.

Catch the PSA segment "RESIBO MO. PANALO MO." every Monday, 7:29-7:35 AM at ONE MORNING SHOW on ABS-CBN 2 and IBC 13.

For inquiries: (02) 336-8777 | www.premyosaresibo.com.ph

US govt gives P51M for Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—As government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) negotiators recently broke the impasse in their negotiations and scheduled a meeting this week in Kuala Lumpur, the United States provided about $750,000 ($13.1 million) for the Mindanao Trust Fund.

Undersecretary Vic Lopez, chairman of the Mindanao Economic Development Council, on Saturday said the funding forms part of Washington's economic support to the government's peace and development efforts in Mindanao.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney and World Bank country director Bert Hofman signed the grant agreement at the International Finance Corp. office in Makati City on Friday.

The money will be used for capacity-building of the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF tasked to design and implement development projects in Mindanao.

The World Bank administers the two-phase Mindanao Trust Fund. The first phase focuses on capacity building and implementation of reconstruction and development and development projects in conflict-affected areas while the peace process is in progress. The second phase is mainly to support full-scale reconstruction programs once a peace agreement has been signed.

Eid Kabalu, civil-military affairs chief of the MILF, welcomed the US assistance for the BDA.

"We are not for nor against any assistance as long as it would help uplift the lives of Muslims in Mindanao," Kabalu told the Inquirer.

In the same letter, Kabalu said the MILF's standing explanatory talks between Davao and government officials on Nov. 14-17 in Malaysia will push through as scheduled.

"So far, there were no changes in the schedule. Both panels are expected to conclude the issue on territory during the meeting," he said. Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

NEWSBRIEFS

Flies worry Davao villagers

CITY OF DAVAO, Davao del Sur—Residents of Barangay Connon here have called the attention of health authorities after swarms of flies invaded their village.

Resident Tony Jane Lamosura said she was afraid the flies would affect the health of the community. The villagers blamed a poultry farm for the menace. The farm's management refused to comment on the allegations.

Dr. Rayjenn Manuel Maclaren, municipal health officer, said his office would investigate the farm this week. Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Army officer, 2 soldiers hurt in clash

LUZON CITY—An Army officer and two soldiers were wounded in an encounter with New People's Army rebels in Libmanan, Camarines Sur, on Nov. 3.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command, said 2nd Lt. Nonie Abada, Pfc. Melchor Peralta and Pfc. Alberto Lao III, members of the 42nd Infantry Battalion, were on combat patrol when they encountered an undetermined number of rebels in Sitio Kamadugan in Libmanan. Delon T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon

3 soldiers wounded in clashes

KIDAPAWAN, CITY—Three soldiers were wounded in a series of clashes with communist rebels in a remote village of Columbio town in Sultan Kudarat on Nov. 9.

Maj. Rodrigo Dolorzella, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Cotabato City, said the clashes occurred in Sitio Lusak, Barangay Tambilagao.

During the first gun battle, Dolorzella said Pfc. Balderen Alidon was wounded. During the follow up operations, Sgt. Leonardo Cabreda Jr. and Pfc. Ismael Pasaljo were hurt, he said. Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

NPA claims role in 2 ambuscades

LEGAZPI CITY—The New People's Army on Nov. 5 claimed responsibility for the two ambuscades that resulted in the deaths of two policemen and wounding of three others in Cabusgan and San Pascual towns in Masbate last week.

In a statement sent to the lawyers, National Democratic Front (NDF) spokesperson Greg Saltona said the NPA Jose Rapsing Command in Masbate was behind the attacks. The claims could not be independently confirmed.

Earlier, the NPA owned up for the Friday night torching of a Globe cell-site in Barangay Bayanihan, San Fernando, Masbate. Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Soldier, son killed in road accident

ROXAS CITY—An Army soldier and her young son were killed when the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a cargo truck on Nov. 8 along the national highway in Barangay Maulaya, President Roxas, Capiz. Sgt. Sharon Tamelo Jr. said his son Rolando, 8, both of Poblacion, President Roxas, were declared dead on arrival at the Roxas District Hospital in Pontevedra, Capiz, said Insp. Reynaldo Sheriff, police chief of President Roxas.

Tamelo was a member of the 12th Infantry Battalion based in San Antonio, Quezon, Capiz.

The truck driver, Elmer Millares, 30, of Barangay San Esteban, Pilar, Capiz, surrendered to police. Felipe S. Calleo, Inquirer Visayas

PMA cadet dies

BAGUIO CITY—A graduating cadet of the Philippine Military Academy died on Tuesday from what military doctors described as upper respiratory infection, reports said.

Cadet First Class Reinald Ferrer, 22, went to a hospital in Las Piñas City on Nov. 1 because of fever, according to the PMA public information office.

Doctors of the Philippine Army Hospital in Las Piñas referred him to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center where he suffered seizures that "became frequent despite continuous medications and monitoring," the PMA said.

Ferrer was the second cadet to have died this year. Cadet Fourth Class John Lincoln Bacolod, 17, died at the AFP Medical Center on May 6, after being confined for coughing and fever. Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cops hunt 3 men who robbed STL employees

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police are hunting three unidentified men who held up employees of a company operating the small town lottery (STL) in Laguna on Nov. 6 and took away ten money amounting to P150,000.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr. said the men were now gathering information about the three armed men who were believed to have knowledge of the operations of Pasinbol Gaming Corp., owner of the STL franchise.

He said the employees, who had just collected bets from their betting stations, were in a service vehicle when they were flagged down by the gunmen in Sitio Maabo, Barangay Wanis Magdalena, at around 6 a.m. Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Mass grave yields 13 skeletons

SIBUTAD, Zamboanga del Sur—The mass grave found in Sitio Landing in Barangay Sinunoc have now yielded 13 remains, including that of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby.

The diggings started late last week after a former communist rebel led police to the site.

Maj. Gen. Dionisio Luna, commander of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Zamboanga City, said the pregnant woman was believed to be Myrna Mendoza, former finance officer of the NPA's Southern Mindanao command.

Mendoza, also Penong, was 6 months pregnant when she was allegedly executed by her comrades at the height of a counterinsurgency purge in the 1980s.

Alberto Caparoso, director of the Commission on Human Rights in Southern Mindanao, said the agency was willing to help the families of those killed during the purge, known in Mindanao as "Operation Bahoy." Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

Journalists file raps vs Compostela Valley dad

DAVAO CITY—DAVAO JOURNALISTS swooped to the Office of the Ombudsman-Mindanao on June 8 to support the filing of criminal and administrative cases against a Compostela Valley provincial board member, who mauled a broadcaster inside the announcer's booth of Radyo Natin in Compostela Valley last month.

Nestor Abad Sombrono filed criminal charges of grave coercion, grave threats, physical injury, and administrative case of grave abuse of authority against his alleged attacker, Board Member Noel Rutaquio.

Lawyer Mario Baron, spokesperson for the Davao Ombudsman for Mindanao, said the complaint would be evaluated before facts and evidence.

Once probable cause is established, the Office of the Ombudsman may decide on the administrative case, while a criminal case will be filed in court, Baron said.

Carlos Arnado, secretary general of the Union of Peoples' Lawyers in Mindanao (UPLIM) which is assisting Sombrono, said the case not only involved the trampling of rights of one person but also touched on the issue of press freedom and the sphere of impunity reigning in the country.

It involves a government official using power to suppress the press, he said.

50 killed

"This is dangerous because there have already been more than 50 journalists killed in our country since the restoration of democracy in 1986, "he said.

"We don't only demand for a stop of the killing of journalists but also to stop all attacks against press freedom."

Both the Davao chapters of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) urged colleagues not to treat the attack lightly because this might encourage more politicians to stand unprovoked journalists while discussing legitimate issues on air.

"What happened to Noel Sombrono manifests the ongoing attempts to curtail the freedom of expression in the country," said the joint statement, signed by Cecilio Pedrosa, chair of NUJP Davao, and Roy Gaerlan, chair of KBP Davao.

"It shows how members of the local media have become easy targets of such attacks by abusive public officials," the statement added.

Sombrono said that at around 6:15 a.m. on Dec. 23, Rutaquio barged into the radio station with his wife and daughter, and attacked and threatened him while he was hosting his program, "Sharing Lingawd, Share ang Balita."

He said he was criticizing them for promising to give 50 sacks of cement from the provincial government if Jaime Blanco, a candidate for barangay captain, won, when the attack occurred.

In an interview with a Davao City radio station after the attack, Baron said he only did it to protect the reputation of his family, which Sombrono allegedly wanted to tarnish.

Proper forum

"In practicing journalism, we believe that our profession does not lack proper forums, where facts can be verified, whatever complaints might have on broadcasts that normal, he should not just disrespect or the rights of listeners or a person, and abused and threatened him right in a place, where as a broadcaster, freedom is supposed to carry out his role as "watchdog" of democracy," the journalists said in a statement sent to Baron's assistant.

They said Sombrono's experience "is a matter of concern to all journalists because the one who did it is a public official whose actions must be open to public scrutiny, and that it is part of the job of every journalist to examine."

In Tagum City, police on Sunday arrested 65-year-old Pedro Dagooc in connection with the shooting and wounding of radio broadcaster Jose Pamaja in front of the Mindanao State University on Oct. 8.

Pamaja was the spokesperson of Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats under the leadership of Rep. Alfelito Flores and former Liaison Del Norte vice Imelda Quibuyen Dimapuro.

City police chief Senior Supt. Virgilio Bames said the suspect, Romeo Mopitos, was arrested in his alleged hideout in the village of Sto. Filomena.

Bames said Mopitos was being interrogated by the City Intelligence and Investigation Division and would be turned over to the Regional Trial Court today.

Mopitos was a civil security guard but was relieved for alleged involvement in illegal activities three years ago.

The two other suspects were identified as Amado "Ding" Galvez and Elmer Baganda. Gerardino A. Lacorte, Jeffrey M. Tupas, Richel I. Umel, Inquirer Mindanao

NOW ON ITS 9th WEEK!

Go on a pilgrimage and journey back in time with Jesus...

Experience His Passion, Death, and Resurrection in a touching lights and sound exhibit...

Discover the history and science behind one of the world's most precious treasures...

Witness the exposition of what is believed to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ like in Turin, Italy...

CATCH THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY!

THE MYSTERY OF

The Shroud of Turin

THE PHILIPPINE EXHIBITION

SM Mall of Asia (Ground Floor South Wing, Entertainment Mall)

September 8 - December 9, 2007 • 10:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE TICKET COUNTER LOCATED AT THE EXHIBIT ENTRANCE

For more information and group tour reservations, please contact:

The Shroud Exhibit International, Inc.

Most Western Visayas water stations have no permits

By David Ian Oliver
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—IF YOU'RE BUYING WATER from refilling stations anywhere in Western Visayas, think again.

Only 154 of the 564 water stations in the region are accredited by the Department of Health and have secured sanitary permits from the local governments, said Annmarie Barc, hospital sanitarian and occupational health inspector of the DOH.

Barc is tasked with checking the water treatment process used by the refilling stations.

Some stations use improved filtering machines, while others "have damaged, broken or rusty devices," he said.

Barc said local governments were responsible for issuing sanitary permits in accordance with the Sanitation Code of the Philippines.

But the water stations must secure initial and operational permits from the DOH before they could get a sanitary permit.

The DOH issues an initial permit (or notice to proceed) to an applicant for the construction, installation and operation of a water source that covers the plans and specifications set by the health department.

After the construction of the water supply system, the owner must apply for an operational permit and secure a certificate of potability from the local health office.

"Local government units must also ensure that water refilling stations submit a monthly water analysis to ensure the safety of their product," Barc said.

Under the Sanitary Code, the city or municipal health officer should recommend the immediate suspension of the sanitary permit if the company is found to have insanitary conditions.

Barc noted, however, that the local governments had been issuing business permits to the water refilling stations although they had not complied with all the requirements.

Point	No. of Negros-based Refilling Stations	With DOH accreditation or Sanitary Permits
Bacolod	113	53
Bacolod City	104	50
Silay	10	3
Talisay	8	4
Cadiz	11	10
Sagay	5	3
Escalante	5	3
Iloilo	112	34
Negros Occidental	80	17

SOURCE: DOH

Fire wipes out Sulu commercial center, says disaster official

ZAMBOANGA CITY—TWO MORE BODIES were recovered from the ashes and other debris from a fire that swept a commercial center in Jolo, Sulu on Nov. 3, raising the death toll to five people.

"The whole commercial center was wiped down. It's very depressing, but I kept on telling the people to be strong, to gather our strength together," Hadja Jainah Alabdusalam, head of the Sulu Provincial Disaster Coordinating Center for Disasters, said.

Close to 8,000 people were displaced as the fire—described as one of the worst disasters to hit Sulu in recent years—gutted hundreds of houses and business establishments in Barangays North Land and South Land, and the town proper.

Alabdusalam corrected her earlier statement that the fire displaced 7,000 families, saying this was based on a report sent by the municipal information center. "The actual count is 646 families or close to 4,000 individuals," she said.

Two of those who died were children. At least 15 people, including two soldiers helping in the evacuation, were injured.

"People have started to panic because the whole town was razed. They do not know where to get food, clothing or things to help them survive," Alabdusalam said.

She said Det offer had brought food and medicine to them, but their situation was aggravated by the lack of shelter.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Bafiel, chief of the military's Task Force Comet, said the fire could have been caused by a dynamite explosion near a house selling gasoline.

In Malita, Davao del Sur, at least 17 families lost their homes when a liquefied petroleum gas tank exploded and triggered a fire in Barangay Poblacion on Saturday.

No casualties were reported but damage could reach P5 million, Orlando Augusto, municipal fire marshal, said.

In Cotabato City, officials and civic leaders were working together to find temporary shelter for victims of the Nov. 7 fire that struck a slum area built on an old cemetery.

The victims have sought refuge in schools and a church facility.

Fr. David Procalla, Bunay Heights parish priest, said at least 50 families were staying at the parish social action hall.

Mayor Muslimin Sema instructed the city social welfare office to relocate the victims from public schools because classes had already resumed. Julie Alipala with reports from Orlando Dizon and Charlie C. Adrao, Inquirer Mindanao

10

Canon

FREE OFFICE SPACE WITH EVERY PURCHASE

Look and look at it, in fact. But space isn't the only thing you'll be saving on when you get a Canon imageRUNNER Scanner.

You'll also be saving on time, without the need to change a single setting when shifting from color to black and white scanning, from one document to thick stock. Your time saves out as quick as they are brilliant.

And with its patented W Dictionary Manager software, you'll also be saving yourself from the stress of managing your entries. From cutting to sticking to removing to sticking to removing.

So save yourself the trouble of trying to find a better option when, really, there is none. Free up some time (and a little desk space) and pick up a Canon imageRUNNER today.

imageFORMULA imageWARE Adobe Acrobat

Business can be simple

More Sports stories on A29 to 32

Late SPORTS

Alaska holds off Baguio, Red Bull

By Jun Nisperos

FOR SIX MINUTES IN THE THIRD quarter, Alaska Aces were clueless on what to do with a problem named Cyrus Baguio.

There, at the start of the fourth, the problem solved itself.

The high-flying Red Bull midgroup ace was muted when the final period got going and the Aces took advantage of his absence to score a 95-89 decision of the Bulls last night in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Mike Cortez and Willie Miller smoked two three pointers each in the payoff period while Tony Dela Cruz, Jeffrey Cariaso and John Wetzel shot accurately from the perimeter as the Aces arrested Baguio's 27-point output.

Baguio, taking over the scoring chores from an injured Jumby Villanueva, pumped in 7/2 of his total in the third quarter, sending every Alaska defensive play as he steered the Bulls to within a basket, 84-82, after trailing most of the first half.

But assistant coach Gie Abanilla, who subbed for the absent head coach Tony Conto, gave his main offensive threat a rest in the opening minutes of the fourth, providing the cue for the Aces to unleash their attack.

"I'm so thankful that he wasn't here," said Alaska coach Tim Cone of Conto—who left for the United States last Saturday for personal reasons—after the Aces improved to 4-3.

Red Bull dimished its second straight loss and third overall in six games.

Meanwhile, the PBA executive board led by chair Tony Chua moved today to establish the parameters on the league's search for a new commissioner.

"The new commissioner should already be appointed by the end of February next year," said Chua, who spearheads the search committee made up of Sikh Y Yeh's Ricky Vargas, Robert Seet of San Miguel, Alaska's Joaquin Trillo and Lito Alvarez of Nutri.

Buyers have a clear PBA legal counsel Chito Salud, son of former commissioner Rudy Salud, and businessman Lambert Ramos are in contention for the position. Ex- senators Sonny Jaworski and Freddie Webb are also in the running.

The scores

First Game

ALASKA 95—Baguio 42, Cortez 17, Miller 15, Arroyo 11, Yeo 9, Dela Cruz 5, Cariaso 5, Wetzel 5, Ochosa 2, Lastimosa 0, Cruz 0, Zamora 0, Lanete 0.

RED BULL 89—Reyes 27, Alamar 15, Ilon 13, Arroyo 10, Reyes 7, Ababon 5, Wilson 5, Jones 4, Cabahug 3, Gonzalez 0, Gamot 0, Carpena 0.

Quarters: 19-31, 42-38, 64-62, 85-89

Aplus METRO
Editor: Joan G. Dipasupil
Send us your feedback: inquirer.net/metro/letter/index.php/newsgroup: 2351 (Globe) or 2352 (Smart) E-mail: jg_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Agad-agad direct link
Puwesting
hulugan ng up to
6 months pa!
CALL 88-725-88

3 dead, 11 hurt in Marikina mishap

Drunk driver plows into funeral march

By Kristine L. Alave

IT WAS A FUNERAL PROCESSION THAT led to more grief.

Three people were confirmed killed and 11 more hurt when a vehicle plowed into a funeral procession in Marikina City yesterday afternoon.

SPO1 Rudel Enrevor of the Marikina City police said a Suzuki Samurai Maguz bound for Cubao, Quezon City crashed into the group of mourners at around 1:00 p.m. on the Marcos Highway.

Police identified the driver as Gerardo Hernando, 43, and a resident of Antipolo City. He was immediately arrested after the authorities said conflicting charges of reckless imprudence resulting to homicide and physical injuries.

According to initial findings, Hernando was drunk and fell asleep behind the wheel.

Investigators also pointed out that Hernando was an inexperienced car driver who was more used to driving a motorcycle because of his work as a messenger.

Those killed were identified as Jay Custodio, 34, a barangay tres. Three residents, Rizer Jay Quiñat, 30, and Ivanna Peregrino, 40. The latter were part of the funeral procession.

Custodio died on the spot while the two others passed away while being treated in a hospital.

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE CITY
The lights of the giant Christmas tree at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City glow brightly, a reminder that the holiday season is just a few weeks away. [illegible]

DID YOU KNOW

SECTION 8(a) of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9211) prohibits the carrying of any lighted tobacco product in public vehicles, schools, health centers, elevators, cinemas, malls and in places where [illegible] are banned. Smoking is also banned in recreational facilities for minors.

Fines imposed on violators of this section range from P500 to P10,000.

CyRIL Almadrell, Inquirer Research

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the dissolution of PHILIP ARENA, INC. ("Corporation") by amending its articles of incorporation to shorten the corporate term from fifty (50) years from and after the date of incorporation to until 11 December 2007 was approved by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital stock and majority of the Board of Directors of the Corporation or in joint special meeting held on 30 December 2005.

All persons having a claim against the Corporation are requested to present them claim at the Corporation's principal office at GVA Ltd Bldg. compound, Brgy. [illegible], Antipolo City for immediate settlement.

Panalo Ka sa PSBank Home Loan!
Give us 5 days. Or else, you get 1% less.*
PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
Metrobank Group
T.G.I.F.
Thank Goodness It's Five days.
PSBank Home LOAN
And presently that too.
Panalo ka sa bilis ng approval sa PSBank Home Loan! 99% of applicants nationwide receive a decision in five days or less. Panalo ka rin sa flexible at fixed terms up to 25 years! Ang iba panalo sa 1% rate break on their first year interest rate. At sa buhos ng interest rates, siguradong wala kang sisi dito. That's the PSBank Home Loan Guarantee!
Get the PSBank TGIF Home Loan.
Apply at any PSBank branch nationwide or through www.psbank.com.ph

Choir pays tribute to Tondo's working class hero

By Kenneth M. Jol Rosario

IT'S ALMOST THE ELECTION season but Jerry Dadap and the choir he founded, the Antipo Basilisks Concert Choir, are not about to change their repertoire.

After all, for more than 40 years, the choir has been singing songs that are truly Filipino which Dadap himself composed.

Dadap (the group's weekly rehearsal at the Department of Agrarian Reform building in Quezon City, Dadap gives a sign of approval as the choir members confidently nail a high note.

"What we want is to awaken the Filipinos' love and passion for our country through music," he told the Inquirer. "What sets us apart from other choral groups is that we are the sole choir in the country that sings only patriotic songs."

The group's repertoire includes folk, religious, contemporary and love songs sung in different dialects.

COMPOSER Jerry Dadap is no fan of singing contests on TV. "How can they find real Pinoy singers if they sing foreign songs?" he asks.

PHILSTAR/RUDY SANTOS

Embodiment of patriotism

According to Dadap, he named the group after Bonifacio who, for him, is the embodiment of patriotism and nationalism.

Dadap, from Leyte, was 71 years old. Dadap began his music career when he came to Manila in 1956 and enrolled at the University of the Philippines Conservatory of Music. In 1965, he formed the choir together with UP other singers and musicians.

"Our members may have dwindled since we started four decades ago but our commitment has remained the same," Dadap pointed out.

He said that of the choir's original members, he is the only one left. The others retired or left to focus on their own careers.

But he added, "My choir members today may not have formal training in music but they sound as good as the pioneers. You can never tell the difference."

Sensing the choral group helped me a lot. I developed my vocal skills under Mr. Jerry's training," Lara Rabulo, 21, one of the choir's newest and youngest members, told the Inquirer. A business management graduate of the National College of Business and Arts, Rabulo became part of the group a year ago.

Because of her youth, people often ask if she really feels the meaning of the patriotic songs she sings. "Definitely," said Rabulo. "Deep inside, I am nationalistic. I feel and enjoy the songs that we perform."

Detached

Not everyone is like Rabulo, though. Dadap said with regret, "Youngsters today are so detached from our country. Inevitably, they become slaves of foreign countries."

And though there are some newer, more underground, nationalistic songs that have recently surfaced in the market, Dadap stressed that none of the new, the lyrics contradict the tune or vice versa. "Some of the so-called patriotic songs are vulgar. I prefer to compose my own songs because the children today need to hear a better blend of music," he said.

There are plans for the choir to hold concerts in Europe early next year.

Though a date has not to be set, Dadap said that this would be the first instance in a very long time that the choral group would be going abroad to perform.

"Filipinos are nostalgic in nature. It's always an honor to be able to play in front of a Filipino audience in a foreign country," the composer said.

"My heart melts every time I see Filipinos in the audience cry when they hear us sing," he added.

Dadap pointed out they often get invitations to perform in schools or institutions. As for the choir has been in functions as end federal provinces, the Philippine region and Mountain Province, among others, he added.

To raise funds for their upcoming European concert, the group will be performing at the Philamlife Theater in Manila on Nov. 30, which is Bonifacio's birthday.

"I hope my choir and I will be able to instill in Filipinos around the world love for the country," Dadap said. "For the moment, the plan is to just continue honing the skills of my singers."

THE CHOIR members, who come from all walks of life, are excited about going to Europe next year for a concert.

Cheer, dance contests kick off war on drugs

By DJ Yap

THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS need not be all about slogans, for Makati students, it can be fun.

This week, students of the city's 42 public and private schools will hold a variety of activities, including cheering and street dance competitions dubbed "Mardi Drugs," in line with the celebration of the Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Week.

Tomorrow, they will participate in rallies that will be held simultaneously with the theme "Solong Kabataan [as long as I'm young]."

Afterward, a short program shall be held in armed conjunction with the elementary and high school students' respective campuses.

Then, on Wednesday, students will participate in a cheer dancing contest at the Makati Activity Center.

This will be followed the next day with a Mardi Drugs street dancing contest at the City Hall quadrangle.

Both competitions are open to students of all public and private high schools in the city.

"Through these activities, we hope to increase awareness and understanding of the evils of drugs among our residents, especially the youth," said Mayor Jejomar Binay, who also the chair of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Binay said the activities will also help in the campaign against drugs.

"Through these activities, we hope to increase awareness and understanding of the evils of drugs among our residents, especially the youth," said Mayor Jejomar Binay, who also the chair of the Makati Anti-Drug Abuse Council.

Binay said the activities will also help in the campaign against drugs.

Mentally disturbed man confesses to 6 stabbings

By Kristine L. Alave

THE MARIKINA CITY POLICE yesterday arrested a man accused of stabbing at least six people over the past year.

According to city police chief, Supt. Romeo Ramos, Rodolfo Guadez Jr., 23, and a common helper, told the police that he has stabbed at least six people since 2016. Two of his victims died, Ramos added.

The suspect admitted the charges against him, the police official said, adding that during questioning, Guadez showed signs of psychological disturbance.

"He wouldn't make eye contact and he said he came from a broken family," Ramos said.

The latest incident occurred on Sept. 30 when Guadez attacked two men identified as Sherrie Silva and Ramsey Ilaga at De Peste Villa Pastoral Chain in Marikina City.

According to the police, the suspect suddenly stabbed the victims whom he accused of giving him an "evil look."

Silva died while undergoing treatment while Ilaga remains in critical condition.

Guadez was arrested at his home in Barangay San Roque early morning yesterday.

Aside from Silva and Ilaga, the suspect was also accused of seriously injuring four people in separate incidents since December 2016.

In August, one of his victims identified as Allan Ortega died from stab wounds.

Guadez was detained at the Marikina City police station pending the filing of two murder charges against him.

METRO

Citizen's call

0918-8985566

Beware of wayward golf balls!

LAST Oct. 27 at 10:30 a.m., I was driving on Kiba, close to Camp Aguinaldo, with my children when a golf ball suddenly dropped in front of us. We were lucky; what no one was hit even when the ball ricocheted on the MRT wall and back to Kiba. I even saw a boy on the Camp Aguinaldo underwalk playing with another golf ball he could have picked up. Imagine the accidents these wayward golf balls can cause! Over the MRT and its passengers are at risk. Golfing Camp Aguinaldo authorities and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. Please act on this road threat.

JIMMY P. ARCILLA, 46, Pasig City

East Avenue's habitual violators

TRAFFIC light offenses are being committed blatantly at East Avenue corner Bill Road especially on the Elpidio Quirino Road toward side of East Avenue in Quezon City. Most of the violators, those are no traffic enforcers on the area. If they are there at all, they just ignore the offenders. Buses and jeepneys are habitual violators.

VEC 47, Quezon City

Poor asphalt job on Marcos Highway

PLEASE tell the Department of Public Works and Highways to correct the job tested and poorly executed on Marcos Highway properly, from the LCC Sandalan de Jesus in Pasig City to Masinag in Antipolo City. Spanning vary

Jeepney drivers turn North Avenue into a terminal

REMEDIARIO sa lahat ang kalye dito sa North Avenue na kapat ng PBB building ay ginawa ng jeep terminal. Ito'y tanghali na, at ng madaanan, kapos double parking pa! I would like to report that this portion of North Avenue in front of the PBB building has been transformed into a jeep terminal. Pedestrians can no longer use the sidewalk, and double parking is the rule.

ROSEL BAUTISTA, 28, Quezon City

avoiding the poorly asphalted spots can cause accidents. Thanks.

ANDY CUSTO, Antipolo City

BACLARAN TIENG RULE!

For the past several months, a youth group based in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, has been working as volunteers for the Gawad Kalinga housing project in Mabalacat City, Pampanga. The group called Kabigan which stands for Kabalasan Big Magbiligad sa Nanalinggan (Youth who want to serve and make a stand) has joined hands with the Samsung family headed by Roberto "Pangge" V. Samsung in the effort. It is a fine example of communities—no matter what the background—pooling their efforts for common goals. Kabigan, composed of children from poor families, worked hand in hand with the Samsung children who had previously volunteered for the Habitat for Humanity project in Putting Lupa, Las Piñas City and here spearheaded tree planting, coastal cleanup and recycling drives in Bacolod. To help their less fortunate partners, the Samsung have also given daily school allowances, uniforms, medical supplies, meals and provided educational and field trips to Kabigan members.

Spain's king tells Venezuela's Chavez to 'shut up'

SANTIAGO—SPAIN'S KING Juan Carlos told Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday to "shut up" during a closing session by leaders from the Latin world and brought the Ibero-American summit to an unfortunate end.

"Why don't you shut up?" the king shouted at Chavez, pointing a finger at the president when he tried to interrupt a speech by Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Zapatero was in the middle of a speech at the summit of mostly leftist leaders from Latin America, Portugal, Spain and Andorra, and was criticizing Chavez for calling former Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar a fascist.

Chavez, a leading leftist foe of Washington, also attacked Spanish businessman Gerardo Diaz Ferran, earlier in the week after he questioned the safety of foreign investments in Venezuela.

Chavez, a fiercer soldier, is well-known for fiery speeches laden with descent, bravado and insults—often aimed at the administration of US President George W. Bush.

In the past, he has called Bush a "donkey," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice an "illiterate" and former Mexican President Vicente Fox a "lapdog of imperialism."

Referring to Aznar on Friday, Chavez said, "That former Spanish president ... was a fascist, a true fascist."

The Spanish delegation was not impressed.

"I want to express to you President Hugo Chavez that in a forum where there are democratic governments ... one of the essential principles is respect," Zapatero said sternly, drawing applause from some of the officials in front of him.

Chavez said later the Spanish had come out of the verbal spat looking bad.

"The one who looked bad (here) was the one who lost control, who told us to shut up as if we were still subjects from the 17th, 18th centuries," he told reporters.

Chavez, who has used his country's oil wealth to spread his self-styled socialist revolution, made his mark on the three-day summit from the start, announcing his arrival marches in the capital with millions of leftist fans in Mexico fulfilled.

While most heads of state were due to leave Chile on Saturday, Chavez joined some of South America's most left-leaning leaders at a rally of about 3,000 people gathered for a "Bolivar's Summit" on a Santiago stadium.

He interrupted his speech at the rally to call Cuba's Fidel Castro, who he sometimes his mentor. Chavez paraphrased a message from Castro congratulating Chileans who fought against former dictator Augusto Pinochet.

Then Fidel, when a chance that we don't have to answer phone on this mobile, the people wanted to hear you," said Chavez, dressed in a red T-shirt.

Also at the rally were Bolivian's Evo Morales, Cuban Vice President Carlos Lage and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega.

The 19 leaders at the summit move mostly all leftists and the gathering was mostly friendly. Reuters

Indonesia's Anak Krakatau roars

SUNDA STRAIT, INDONESIA—Indonesia's Anak Krakatau volcano lets out a massive roar as it blasts a gigantic cloud of smoke and flaming red rocks hundreds of meters into the night sky.

A few hours later, a river of lava and stones glowing like embers glide down the slopes of Mount Anak Krakatau as the mixed light of the rising sun tries to break through their clouds settled above the mountain.

The volcano, whose name means "Child of Krakatau," formed in the Sunda Strait close to Java island after Mount Krakatau's legendary eruption in 1883. It rumbled to life about two weeks ago and since then has been shooting steam and visitors still to steering prevented.

Scientists monitoring the volcano say Anak Krakatau is not repeatedly dangerous and will continue to rumble for some time, but wary people to stay out of a 5 km zone around the mountain.

"We are a little worried sometimes when we heard the big boom and we see rocks that fall from, I don't know, half kilometer from the hole," Chad Bouchard, one of a group of eight tourists who spent the night in a boat in the ocean to watch the volcano.

"Sometimes we see the splash inside the ocean. That's a little scary but no, I think it might be stupid but I feel safe."

Anak Krakatau gradually formed after the volcanic island of Krakatau blew up in a massive eruption in 1883, triggering tsunamis and killing more than 36,000 people. Reuters

A BOAT sails past Anak Krakatau volcano in the Sunda Strait on Nov. 11. Anak Krakatau, about 22 km from the nearest observation post in Sumur in Java, is one of four Indonesian volcanoes that have rumbled to life in recent weeks. AFP/JUNI

4,000-yr-old temple unearthed in Peru

LIMA—A 4,000-YEAR-OLD TEMPLE filled with murals has been unearthed on the northern coast of Peru, making it one of the oldest finds in the Americas, a leading archeologist said on Saturday.

The temple, inside a larger ruin, includes a staircase that leads up to an altar carved for the worship of a supreme being called Ai Apaec, archeologist Walter Alva, who led the dig.

It sits in the Lambayeque valley, near the ancient Sipan complex that Alva unearthed in the 1980s. Researchers said the temple dates to 2,000 years before Sipan, about 2,000 years before Christ, he said.

"It's a temple that is about 4,000 years old," Alva, director of the Museum Tumbas Reales (Royal Tombs) of Sipan, said Reuters by telephone after announcing the results of another dating at a ceremony north of Lima sponsored by Peru's government.

"What's surprising are the construction methods, the architectural design and most of all the existence of murals that could be the oldest in the Americas," he said.

Lambayeque is 760 km from Lima, Peru's capital.

Discoveries at Sipan, an administrative and religious center of the Moche culture, have included a gold-filled tomb built 1,700 years ago for a pre-Incan king.

Peru is rich in archeological treasures, including the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in the Andes.

Until the arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s, the Incas ruled an empire for several centuries that stretched from Colombia and Ecuador in the north to what are now Bolivia and Chile in the south.

"The discovery of this temple reveals evidences suggesting the region of Lambayeque was one of great cultural exchange between the Pacific coast and the rest of Peru," said Alva. Reuters

UN rights expert to visit Burma

RANGOON—UNITED NATIONS HUMAN rights expert Paulo Sergio Pinheiro was due Sunday to start his first visit in military-ruled Burma (also known as Myanmar) in four years, as the regime faced pressure to release political prisoners.

Pinheiro arrives in Burma days after a mission by UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, who pressed the generals to establish a dialogue with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Both visits come after Burma's military regime in September crushed the biggest pro-democracy protests in nearly two decades, sparking international outcry and increased pressure to reform.

Pinheiro, who has been refused access to Burma since 2003, will arrive in Rangoon (Yangon) on Sunday. On Monday he will travel to the isolated new capital Naypyidaw, a Burmese government official who did not want to be named said.

"He will meet with the foreign ministers, labor minister and the human rights committee. He will move with the prime minister before he goes back to Rangoon on November 16th," the official said.

It was not clear if the UN human rights envoy, who knows Burma on Thursday, would meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, the pro-democracy leader who has spent 12 of the last 18 years locked away in her Rangoon home.

Human rights groups have called on Pinheiro to pressure the junta to release political prisoners arrested after September's crackdown, which began in response to a raise in fuel prices but quickly swelled.

The government said 14 people died in the protest and about 3,000 were detained, but diplomats and rights groups put both figures far higher.

Amnesty International on Friday estimated that 700 political prisoners were still in detention, including 93 detained during the recent protests, and accused the authorities of the enforced disappearance of at least 72 people.

The authorities must "unconditionally and unconditionally release all of those who were arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression or assembly during the crackdown, as well as all prisoners of conscience held before the recent events," the group demanded.

New York-based Human Rights Watch and the UN Security Council should "redouble efforts to prod Burma's generals into starting a genuine political dialogue and ending human rights abuses."

Both groups called on the junta to cooperate with Pinheiro and give him full and free access to political prisoners.

Gambari's visit ended with the UN declaring that progress had been made, and on Friday, along Suu Kyi met a junta official and members of her political party the National League for Democracy. AFP

Broadway shows are canceled as stagehands strike over work rules

NEW YORK—MOST OF BROADWAY WENT dark on Sunday as stagehands went on strike over new work rules that producers have imposed or have been pushing for in more than three months of contentious negotiations.

The stagehands took their picket signs to the sidewalks about 10 a.m., after a meeting of Local One, their union, at the 980-seat New York on West 43rd Street.

Twenty-seven Broadway shows, including "Wicked," "Avenue Q" and "The Lion King," were dimmed, starting with "Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical," which was to open its run at 11 a.m.

Only eight shows, which are in theaters that have a separate contract with the union, were still running: "Cymbeline," "Fully Rapping," "Mourning," "Pygmalion," "The Ritz," "The Second Person Closing Spelling Bee," "Xanadu" and "Young Frankenstein."

This is the second strike on Broadway in less than five years; the four-day musicians' walkout in 2003 was the first in almost three decades. But this is the first time Local One, a 125-year-old union, has called a strike on Broadway.

The producers and the union last met on Thursday, the second day of new negotiations sponsored by the United National Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, the parent union of Local One.

Disappointed theatergoers were left facing the options available after plans fell through. "I would say a little bit more than disappointed," said Beverly Krith, 63, a trainer for Carrera from Largo, N.J., who had come to New York with her daughter and granddaughter for a weekend of theater. The League of American Theaters and Producers has announced refunds for tickets to shows that are not performing.

The dispute has largely been about the rules that govern how many stagehands must be called for work, how long they must work and the speed of tasks they perform. League members say the rules mean idle stagehands in groups of stagehands on the clock each working to do.

The league, with a $20 million strike payfund, and the union, with a $4.1 million fund, have made preparations for a work stoppage, though no one knows how long one would last. AFP

It's a century late, but Einstein's still right on time

PARIS—THIS, AS WE ALL KNOW, is a relative—good coincidences seem to fly by, whereas bad ones seem to drag on forever.

"After two hours, I looked at my watch," a protagonist of Wagnerian opera is said to have written. "I found that 17 minutes had gone by."

In 1905, Albert Einstein wrote his now-seminar on the relativity of time, famously theorizing that time speeds up or slows down according to how fast an object is moving in relation to another object.

Thus, according to his hypothesis, a clock which is in motion ticks more slowly than an identical clock which is at rest—a phenomenon that Einstein called time dilation.

It is chiefly published on Monday the most accurate experiment yet into time dilation has proven the great German physicist to be hung on target.

An international team of researchers used a particle accelerator to release two beams of atoms around a doughnut-shaped course in opposite directions, Einstein's latter-moving clocks.

They then timed the beams using high-precision laser spectroscopy and found that, compared with the outside world, time for these atomic travelers did indeed slow down.

"We were able to determine the effect more precisely than ever before," said lead researcher Gerald Gwinner of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada.

"We found the observed effect to be in complete agreement."

The experiments, said Gwinner, confirm the technology aboard US military satellites that provide the signals for the Global Positioning System (GPS)—the "sensor" network that is used as a navigational aid around the world.

GPS satellites have precise atomic clocks on board in order to send out synchronized signals that are then transmitted by ergonometry to give one's position.

"GPS uses satellites to measure the positions of objects on the ground, but it needs to take true account the fact that the satellites themselves are in motion at high speeds as they orbit the Earth," said Einstein.

"One test validates the theory used by the devices in components for the satellites' motion."

The experiments took place at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, Germany, and include researchers from that organization, the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics in Garching and Mainz University.

The findings were published online Sunday by the journal Nature Physics.

The first measurement of Einstein's time dilation took place in 1938, when US scientists used the Doppler effect—the change in pitch when a sound and the person hearing it are moving apart or closer together—as the measuring tool.

Einstein's theory of relativity has become the basis for innumerable science fiction tales, for it opens up the prospect of bending and distorting time.

If one of two identical twins were launched into space at very high speed, when he returned home, he would be younger than his earth-bound twin. AFP

3 New and Exclusive offerings by Inspire!

A highly interactive, intimate workshop series with Zigfar SEAL's Master Sales Trainer, Krish Dhanam

Zigfar Sales System, Essential Presentation Skills, Top Performance

Limited to first 30 confirmed sales reps/per

EXCLUSIVE SALES SYSTEM WORKSHOP
November 14, 2007
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong

EXCLUSIVE ESSENTIAL PRESENTATION SKILLS
November 15, 2007
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Mandaluyong

TOP PERFORMANCE
November 16, 2007
Sofitel Manila

Call Ricky, Jaime or Nina at 813-27-32/03 Email us at slegaci@pldtdsl.net
Visit our website at www.inspirephilippines.com

LASER SHOT
Canon
Delighting You Always
TIME to Jumpstart Work Efficiency
LBP2900 & LBP3000
FREE Limited Edition Rudy Project Watch!
Get a Canon Laser Shot LBP2900 or LBP3000 laser printer and receive a FREE Limited Edition Rudy Project Watch!
CANON technologies
CAPT
ALL-IN-ONE TONER
Business Can be simple

The WORLD

Tyler Laverne B. Gueco

A COMBO photo shows Pakistan's military rulers, from top left, clockwise, President Gen. Ziaul Haq, President Field Marshal Ayub Khan, President Gen Yahya Khan and President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Musharraf's declaration of emergency rule was not the first time the Army has demonstrated its supremacy in Pakistan. It is also unlikely to be the last.

Musharraf lets military courts try civilians

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ruler has amended a law to give Army courts sweeping powers to try civilians on charges ranging from treason to inciting public unrest, officials said Sunday, as the country's opposition leader prepared to stage a 300-kilometer protest march in defiance of a ban.

The moves come one week after President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said he was imposing a state of emergency to help fight Islamic militancy. But the main targets of his crackdown have been his most outspoken critics, including the increasingly independent judiciary and media.

The army chief—under pressure from the United States and other Western allies to return to the path of democracy—won praise for ignoring Saturday to lift the emergency within weeks and hold elections by Feb. 15, just one month later than originally scheduled.

US President George W. Bush described the promises as "positive." On using Washington's support firmly behind the embattled Pakistani leader, whom he has in the past described as a good friend.

But a decision to amend the Pakistan Army Act—confirmed by secretary General Shahid Wahidi (sic)—was on Sunday—is likely to raise fresh concerns. It would allow military courts to try people accused of "treason, sedition, or "plying statements accusative to public mischief."

Its framers, that could include lawyers, who said the month (sic). Musharraf's bans on public gatherings and local supporters on a march to the nation's city of Lahore on the capital Islamabad on Sunday.

"When the masses condemn the sound of their steps will suppress the sound of military boots," Sharif, a former prime minister, told hundreds of protesters launching almost immediately after she was freed from 24 hours of house arrest.

Addressing supporters through a loudspeaker, she said Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants were gaining ground in the country's turbulent northwest. She also said Musharraf's military led government was about to crumble.

"This government is standing on its last foot," the former prime minister said, as dozens of supporters scuffled briefly with police. "This government is going to go."

Thousands of people have been arrested, TV news stations taken off air, and judges removed from office since Musharraf imposed his state of emergency.

Musharraf was to hold a press conference with foreign journalists later Sunday. There reporters from Britain's daily Telegraph newspaper left Pakistan's on Sunday after being compelled in protest of a commentary in their newspaper that used an expletive in reference to Musharraf.

The United States considers Musharraf a bulwark in its so-called war on terrorism, but some US officials have expressed concern that Pakistan's political crisis would actually distract its efforts against a militant threat that has spread from the Afghan border region to the capital and beyond.

Bush sidestepped a question on that issue, saying he has confidence in the commitment of Pakistan's leadership to work with the US in its global fight against extremism. "Our strategy we need cooperation from Pakistan," he told reporters in his home state of Texas.

Sharif's jubilant homecoming procession last month following eight years in exile was marred by twin suicide bombings. She escaped unharmed, but more than 140 people died in the attack, widely blamed on Islamic militants.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Big 3 lifts Celtics to 5th straight triumph /A32

SPORTS

Editor Rodolfa S. Plaridel Jr. Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Dohan

Arcilla, Arevalo breeze to victory

By Marc Anthony Reyes

JOHNNY ARCILLA AND COMMINA MAE Arevalo hardcourt nos similar easy victories yesterday and sustained their dominance of the men's and women's singles of the Philippine Columbian Association Open at the PCA shell courts.

Arevalo eased the cause Michelle Pang, 6-3, 6-1, en route her fourth PCA singles title while Arcilla surprised everybody with the class he showed in thrashing fellow Davis Cup pet Patrick John Tierro, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

The 27-year-old Arcilla, who also won the singles title in 2001 and 2006, barely encountered any threat from the minor Tierro, who appeared to overpunch in the second and third sets.

"I didn't expect it to be easy" said Arcilla in Filipino. "I'm (Tierro) realizing he got nervous."

The veteran Arcilla, who left his on-his-back and made a sign of the cross after Tierro's mayward service return or match point, attributed his (weekend) dominance to a training regimen under tandem James Wilkinson and Jimi Librado.

Turned-in, 6-2, in the first set as he exploited Arcilla's weak returns. But after Arcilla held serve for 4-3, Tierro lost his cool when his backhand down the line was called out.

The 23 year-old Tierro bowled in defeat but temperate to finish the match. But he was no longer the same man as Arcilla broke him en route to taking the set.

"He got distressed easily and committed errors, while I patiently tried to get the ball back," said Arcilla.

Earlier Arevalo dished her fourth title overall since a lopsided match that lasted only one hour over Pang.

Arevalo and Librado (by logged the women's doubles title after beating sisters Shes and Bambi Dolero, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2, Saturday night.

COMMINA Mae Arevalo and Johnny Arcilla are excited to be champs again. Arevalo justified her seeding while Arcilla pulled the rug from under PJ Tierro. CONTRIBUTED

Last-gasp V-League bid for FEU tossers

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY SETS OUT to throw a playoff for the fifth and last semifinal seat in the 2007 Shakeys V-League women's volleyball second conference when it battles Ateneo today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Tamaraws will have to accomplish the task in their 3 p.m. match without top player Rachel Anne Daquis, who is out due to a sprained ankle probably for the rest of the tournament.

The 20-year-old Daquis sustained the injury during the second set of their losing game against San Sebastian College last June 3.

If Far Eastern succeeds in earning back the Lithuanian business-led Ateneo, it will meet the loser of tomorrow's Adamson-La Salle tussle for the last semifinal berth.

But if FEU loses, Adamson and La Salle automatically clinch the fourth and fifth slots while the Lady Tamaraens shoulder their sixth place finish in the first two stagings of the tournament.

Ateneo is coming off a loss to rival La Salle, also last Nov. 3, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20.

The collegian San Sebastian Lady Stags eye a 4-0 record against first-conference finals contender University of Santo Tomas Tigresses in the 5 p.m. match.

A victory by the Lady Stags would move them just a win away from sweeping the elimination phase.

Only winless Letrans stands in the way of the three-peat NCAA entrant.

The Tigresses want to end their elimination campaign on a winning note, though, and a chance to stir the Lady Stags for first place going into the easy-over semifinal.

ROMMEL S. ADAMOS

Lions get going vs Tacloban champs

SAN BEDA SETS OUT AS HEAVY FAvorites despite the absence of its top gun when it hosts Second Metal Conference in the Collegiate Champions League today at the San Beda Gym.

Yousif Aljamal has moved up to the pro league, but Ogie Menor, 6-foot-9 Nigerian Sam Ekwe and other stalwarts in the Lions' four-year NCAA reign will be back for a shot at the Manila title.

Santo Tomas and Mapua collide earlier at 3 p.m. in this tournament which pits the top 16 collegiate teams in the country.

The Tamaraws entered a Round of 8 shot after routing CESA champ Manuel L. Quezon U, 93-89, last Saturday.

Ranked second, the Lions emerged as the tournament favorite following the withdrawal of top-seed La Salle and fourth-ranked University of the East.

The Archers opted to take a break from competition, while the Warriors questioned their surprisingly low tournament seeding.

Jeannine W. Paya

PAMELA'S Bernal flops shins-first over the top of Tagaytay's Jessa Mae Pitoc-Kho Bernardino.

Bibat makes move with 71

MIKE BIBAT ZOOMED in a disastrous 78 in the first round with a one-under-par 71 Saturday but remained eight strokes off the pace heading into the finals of the Sunshine Cape Provincer Open 2007 in George, South Africa.

Dillon Jerome overtakes on best year's Asian Games, gunned down birdies in another windy day at the George Golf Club.

Bibat's two-round total of 149, eight shots off Oliver Schiller and Nicholas Mitchell, who also struggled with a 71, is expected to be overtaken by a few before the final.

Freddie Hamm, the best senior among the six RCTM golfers with a 75 Friday, rebounded a 76 to drop into a tie with Bibat and 66-thirty-Fernando (75).

Gene Nimelos also fired a 76 for second 30-others off the pace at 151. Mike Aspas Arevalo and Gino Benzi missed the cut at 162.

Makati IX trips Cebu; Dumaguete prevails

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MAKATI SCORED IN ALL BUT four innings to hand out a crushing 7-3 victory over Cebu, even as Dumaguete scored its third straight win yesterday in the Baseball Philippines Series 2 at the macroeconomist baseball stadium.

The Dolphins built a 5-3 lead after five innings while pitcher Jaspon Bubbo kept the Dolphins at bay with a three-hit, eight-strikeout performance.

While the Dolphins remained on top at 4-2, the Mariners improved to 3-3 as they swooped an 11-4 rout last night.

Jhewin-John Orlando struck out 11 batters and gave up just five hits as the Dumaguete Clubhorn blasted the Manilans Xbox Mobsters, 6-1.

Dumaguete, which chopped its first three games, used Manilens al-so ended up with 3-3 ditties in the tournament organized by Gamemastry Sports Inc.

The third game between Tagaig and Manila was suspended on account of darkness after 11 innings with the score tied at 12.

Organizers have yet to set a date for the resumption of the match.

Bubbo broke the ice for Makati, scoring on a single by Kevin Manuel in the first inning, and the Mariners rumshalloved at least a run synergy in the second, third, sixth and eight innings.

Linescores, R H E

MAKATI 010 030 03x — 7 11 1

CEBU 000 003 000 — 3 6 2

Peping seeking second term

ITS OFFICIAL. PHILippine Olympic Committee president Jose Peping Cojuangco is seeking a second term.

Peping, 70, yesterday signed documents indicating his intention to run for another term. He will be vying for the presidency once more against Cojuangco scion Tom Carrasco, who ran unopposed in 2004 and beat rivals Cabcabin Ramos and Jose Romasanta in 2000.

Peping, who has been leading the POC for 16 years, is expected to be opposed by Dennis Uy, who is reportedly being supported by a group of National Sports Association heads led by athletics' Go Teng Kok.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Record 'Bakbakan' entry list

THE ORGANIZERS OF the 2007 MVP Chairman's Bakbakan 15-Day Sports, which is slated to receive record 1,400 entries, gets going to become 9:00 tonight at Araneta Coliseum.

National Federations of Basketball Associations (NBA), athletic Federations and Final Associate and the first ever tournament are each 1,373 entries.

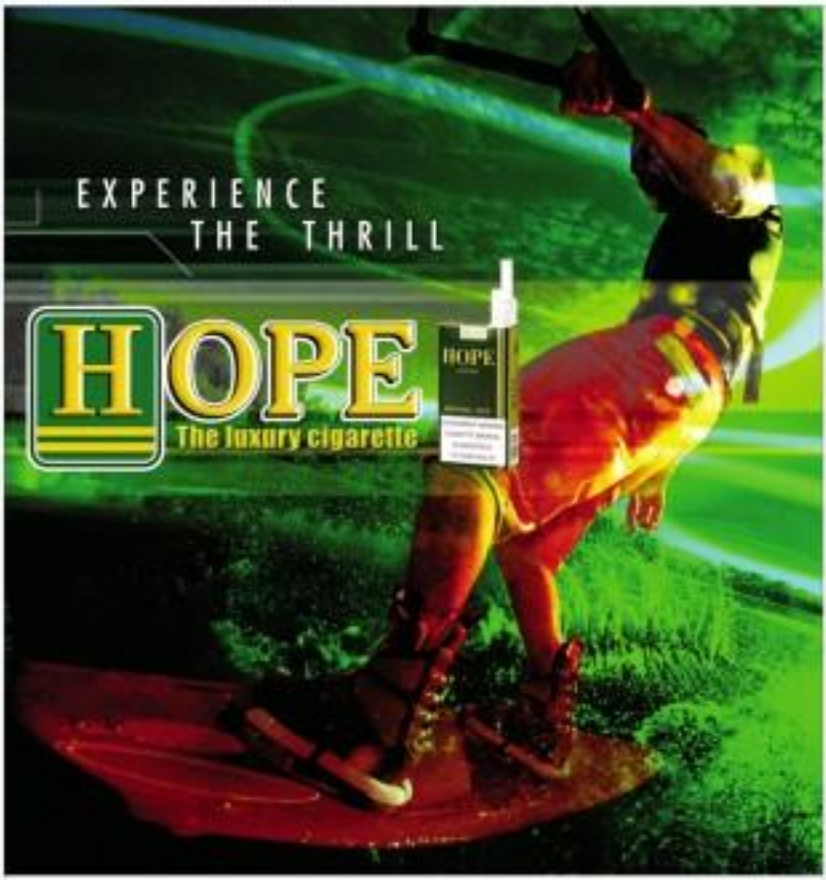
Over three tonnages have laughed the Kings with competitors set to go extra each. They are 7- a.m. Pinoy Basketball (PBA) Basketball Association (basketball), and 3-of-Cagayan Valley (Alfrian Mallicard Edu Cleaver Mirasol Gab, a 3-point-second prize of P1.5 million awaits the champions.

Lagba derby finals today

MORE THAN 1,000 fights are going more on the Lagba Sports Complex's 2-day derby starting at 8 a.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum.

Today's fifth and 5-spring schoolchildren the Lagunan Games with Bowlers Association Daughter of the Year.

Among the top boxers are Jonny Lauro, Marco Rene Agbisit, Bon Rayos, Mike Soto, Tony Lopez, Jun Macapagal and Pio Estrabelo.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

POF stars, Nationals show wares today

By Jam Manarra

THE ILLUMINATION OF A YEAR-long effort to infuse new blood in the national pool begins today with the holding of the national championships of the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

About 3,000 athletes, who survived the regional qualifying games, will clash their wares against the national athletes in 17 disciplines and two demonstration sports, all of them hoping to clinch a slot in the national pool.

The week-long meet seeks to discover and train talents for the 2009 Southeast Asian Games.

"With the convergence of efforts among the national sports associations, the POC and the local government units, the POF is offering a clear pathway to the London Games," said Philippine Olympic Committee and POF chairman Robert Aventajado.

The Rizal Southeast Tigoling and Mindanao qualifiers produced a slew of upcoming swimmers capable of making the national pool while the Visayas and Interzonal Central Regions swept most of pointed finish of athletics.

Joining Aventajado in the 4 p.m. opening ceremony are POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, IOC representative Frank Elizalde and Philippine Sports Commission chair Williams "Butch" Ramirez.

Zamboanga Del Norte Rep. Cesar Jalosjos will declare the sports fest open.

Coach Baculi now spurns major revamp for cagers

By Ray Lustica

SINGAPORE—HARBOUR CENTRE-PWL tipster coach Jane Baculi boasted a night of relief after watching his wards huff and puff to grandeur Sunday.

He no longer sees the need for a major revamp of the Nationals, after capability to defend their Southeast Asian Games basketball crown is being doubted by many back home.

Baculi believes that the likely addition of FIL-American Gabe Norwood and one or two more defensive players will be enough to carry them past the Thais and the Malaysians, who are said to be their strongest opponents for the 4th in the SEAG set in Thailand next month.

There are plans to tap key players from the Philippine Basketball Association to boost the team, but it seems Baculi has no need for them now.

The Nationals, Baculi noted, have reached 75 percent of their full potential, grasping from their last win over San Miguel Coffee in the PBL.

He is hoping that their four-game series here, starting with the Singapore national team late Sunday afternoon at the Singapore Indoor Stadium, would give the Nationals the finishing touches they've been searching for since they were formed in September.

Several changes in manpower have enmarked the team's preparation since then, but Mikee Romero, amateur basketball "godfather" remains hopeful that the Nationals will be up to the task in Thailand.

Team coordinator Eric Arejola said Romero would be flying in Monday to watch the victorious battle the Singaporeans, the American Navy on Monday the Australian pro team Singapore Slingers on Tuesday and the European Selection on Wednesday.

"Give me two or more players and one goal (SEAG title) will be available and achievable," said Baculi, who will assist assistant coaches Lauro Alo, Bonging Seril and Franz Dy to nearby Johor Bare, Malaysia, on Monday to scout the Malaysian national team which will play against the core of the Indonesian five.

Also being eyed by Baculi as reinforcements are former Fitch Rodriguez of Tejeros fame, Jeff Chan

PINEDAHAIR...
EXPERIENCE THE BEST RESULTS IN HAIR RESTORATION
Achieve a Natural-Looking Hairline in just 1 Session
CALL TODAY 813-0691
BEFORE
AFTER

Undefeated

ADDITION big man Kevin Garnett (right), a third of the Celtics' Intact edition of the Big Three, bank down one of his 11 rebounds against New Jersey's Jarvis Hayes.

Big 3 lifts Celtics to 5th straight triumph

MARK TIOZON INQUIRER.NET

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—The red-hot Boston Celtics got 73 points from their new "Big Three" and resumed the NBA's only unbeaten team after a 113-101 road victory over the New Jersey Nets on Saturday.

The 5-0 Celtics are off to their best start since going 6-0 in 1987-88, when Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish led the way. The 2000 version of the Big Three—Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen—have blended flying medal cylinders.

Pierce scored 26 points, Allen 27 and Garnett added 18 points and 14 rebounds to take care of the Nets.

The win came just hours after their coach Doc Rivers attended his father's funeral. He returned in time to run the game.

"It was a lot about us," Pierce said respectively. "We didn't know if Doc was going to be here. We've got our assistant players on (injured) and we responded."

Richard Jefferson led the Nets (4-2) with 28 points while Jason Kidd had 17 points, 12 assists and six rebounds and Vince Carter 17 points. Carter left in the third quarter with a sprained ankle.

"I'll see how it feels tomorrow and we'll go from there," said Carter. "I don't want to put a timetable on it."

In other games, it was Trail Blazers 91, Mavericks 82; Kings 100, Timberwolves 92; Suns 130, Magic 96; Jazz 118, Grizzlies 94; Nuggets 112, Pacers 106 and Rockets 101, Bulls 71.

Reuters, AP

Miñoza ends up way back in the end

SHANGHAI—JOANNE MIÑOZA DROPPED six strokes in a six-hole stretch on the back nine and finished well back of the pack even as American star Phil Mickelson fired the fifth Olympic course record after hearing the English duo of Ryan Palmer and Lee Westwood at the second playoff hole on Sunday.

The Filipina star, who won his seventh career title on the 4th August Time three weeks ago, carded a 78 on the final 18 holes after earlier rounds of 69-70-75 and wrapped up with a four-over 292 total that left him in a tie for 33rd place.

Miñoza, also the Philippine Open champion last February, posted nines of 37-41. An collapse on the backside highlighted by a triple bogey on the par 5 13th. He also bogeyed the 16th, 12th and 18th holes.

Jessi Ongpauco wound up fourth from last at 17-over 305 with scores of 77-78-82-74.

Mickelson, the three-time Major winner sealed his victory with a birdie at the par five 36th second playoff hole at the Sheshan International Golf Club.

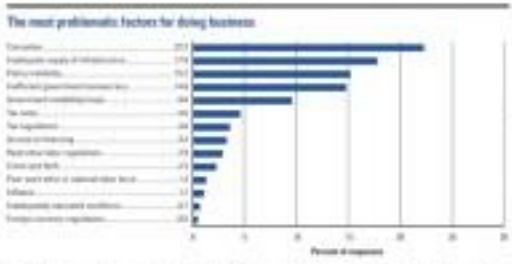
Westwood watched to the runner up spot after his ball found the water while Palmer missed a 18 foot birdie putt at the 18-hole championship course. All three players had previously joined the first extra hole on the 18th. Adam Time News

Excellence in Connection
Enjoy the Best First Class Service in the World
KOREAN AIR

BUSINESS
Editor Raul O. Maralit • Assistant Editor Carole S. Malonzo
Send us your feedback Inquirer Tel. (private line) 897-2300 local 2351 Email: business@inquirer.com.ph

HP Pavilion
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

Gov't spending seen to boost economy



Taking up the slack from expected US slowdown

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPANESE STOCKBROKERAGE GIANT NOMURA SECURITIES sees government-led infrastructure investment taking up the slack from an expected US economic slowdown and helping stabilize the Philippine economy over the next two years.

In its economic report dated Nov. 6, Nomura upgraded its real gross domestic product (GDP) growth outlook on the country to 6.4 percent from 6.1 percent for, leaving the stronger-than-expected expansion of 7.3 percent in the first semester.

The forecast growth for 2008 was kept at 6.7 percent while a growth of 5.8 percent was projected for 2009.

GDP—the single most important indicator of total output, refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy for a given period.

"The heightened risk of a slowdown in the US economy has increased the probability of a gradual slowdown in the Philippine economy in the second half of 2007. However, we think the local economy will maintain a stable growth in 2008 and 2009, driven by domestic demand, particularly from public sector infrastructure investment," (LEFT B2)

Corruption, poor infrastructure dragging RP competitiveness

By Dazzle L. Lozo

(First/Two parts)

CORRUPTION AND POOR INFRASTRUCTURE remain the most problematic factors in doing business in the Philippines, according to a recent survey conducted among the country's business elite.

Despite Class Hagerup scientists, the survey conducted by the Makati Business Club (MBC) for the World Economic Forum's 2007-2008 Global Competitiveness Report showed that the country's rank improved to 71st place from 75th in the previous edition.

The country's improved ranking is due mainly to its relative macroeconomic stability, a significant decrease in domestic inflation and interest rates and lower government deficit and debt levels.

"What this shows is that the Philippines is moving up the competitiveness ladder, although we have to address the issues of corruption and [inadequate] infrastructure," MBC senior research associate Michael D. Manalo said in an interview.

SPECIAL REPORT

According to the MBC, however, the country's overall competitiveness was pulled down by its poor performance in four key pillars: labor market efficiency, institutions, infrastructure, and health and primary education.

The results of the global competitiveness ranking were based on surveys of more than 11,000 business executives from 131 nations.

Locally, the survey was conducted among 37 MBC member firms. 22.3 percent of whose executives were concerned about corruption, while 17.8 percent were concerned about the country's relatively weak infrastructure.

Out of 131 countries included in the competitiveness survey, the Philippines ranked 113th in the category of government diversion of public funds.

The country ranked even lower—119th—in the wastefulness of government spending, and 117th in the burden of government regulations.

All told, the Philippines held an overall "competitive disadvantage" in the field of institutions when (CONTINUED ON A2)

SMC firms up bid for 60% stake in PNOC-EDC

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lorenzo

SAN MIGUEL CORP. SOUTHEAST ASIA's biggest food and beverage company has teamed up with American asset management group Avenue Asia for its bid to buy the government's 60-percent stake in geothermal power producer PNOC Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang said the partnership would be covered through San Miguel's wholly-owned power investment unit, San Miguel Energy Corp.

Inquirer sources said Avenue Asia was partnering with San Miguel through its newly-formed vehicle from Bolinggaman Subject Rivers BV.

The government earlier announced that San Miguel Energy and Bolinggaman Subject Rivers BV have joined forces to Form Pinamin Energy Holdings Inc., a joint venture company, for the (SPECIFICS, A1)

Cautious trading seen

STOCK INVESTORS TWO WEEKS HENCE expected to track Wall Street's performance and balance fresh fears on the health of the US economy.

"The Philippine equity market may follow global equity markets as huge rig concerns on the subprime fallout in the US continued to spook investors. Any meaningful market correction should be seen as a buying opportunity," said Paul Joseph Bacala, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management.

All stock prices as measured by the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped by more than 200 points Friday after major banks the Bank of America Corp., JP Morgan Chase & Co. and Wachovia Corp. warning might post heavy losses as the bad subprime debt for the ongoing credit crunch.

Prince Wong, analyst at AB Capital Securities, noted in a weekly report that investors should look for cautious this week as they could react loudly to the US economy.

(BUSINESS B4)

WHO urges gov't to increase cigarette tax

By Michelle V. Rivera

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION has urged the Philippine government to raise the excise tax on cigarettes, saying the measly tax in the country was not helping the cause of fighting tobacco-related diseases.

In a letter to the Department of Finance, the health agency noted that the Philippines had the lowest excise tax on cigarettes among Southeast Asian countries.

"They [WHO] asked us if we would raise the tax some more because it is true that the tax here is low compared with what is imposed in neighboring countries," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters Friday.

Beltran said the DOF was willing to push for the proposal to raise the excise tax on cigarettes, agreeing that the current tax rate were outdated. He said, however, that increasing cigarette taxes would not be easy as industry players were expected to lobby strongly against it.

"WHO said the cigarette tax in Singapore was equivalent to $10[2.56 per 1,000 sticks. In Brunei, the tax is equivalent to $56.30. In Malaysia, cigarettes are taxed $23.29 per 1,000 sticks.

But in the Philippines, the excise tax on cigarettes ranged from only $2.42 to $24.20 per 1,000 sticks. Cigarettes in the Philippines are divided into four classifications, and the tax rates differed based on price.

Beltran noted that most cigarettes are taxed based on their DOF prices. The Bureau of Internal Revenue is prohibited from automatically raising the tax to match a corresponding increase in price. An increase in the tax rate may only be done through legislation.

In 2005, Congress passed Rep. 9334, also referred to as the Sin Tax Law of 2005, to increase the tax rates on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. The tax rates the tax rates applied on four classifications of cigarettes by an average of 8 percent since every year since.

The law was considered one of the measures to help shore up tax collections and put the government's fiscal house in order. However, it has so far failed to realize the expected revenues.

The DOF said the law did not incorporate a provision that would automatically place a cigarette brand into a higher tax bracket if its price increased. The law likewise did not allow the use of updated 2008 prices in basis for levying "old" cigarette brands or those that have been in the market prior to 1997), but instead used 1997 prices.

Earlier, the DOF submitted to the Senate a position paper pending for an amendment to the Sin Tax Law of 2005. The DOF said an ideal way of taxing cigarettes was to automatically put a cigarette brand in a higher tax bracket if its price increased.

Revenues is supposed to be levied on products whose consumption is considered is discouraged. But the DOF said the planned increase in cigarette taxes did not fulfill that objective, neither did it achieve the other purpose of substantially boosting government revenues.

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO EMBRACE RISK IN EXCHANGE FOR HIGHER INVESTMENT RETURNS, THEN THE
BPI EQUITY FUND
IS THE RIGHT INVESTMENT FOR YOU.

The BPI Equity Fund is primarily invested in equity issues listed at the Philippine Stock Exchange. It is ideal for those who want exposure in Philippine stocks but do not have the time or expertise to handle select, constant and timely stock investments.

Take advantage of the high-growth potential of the stock market. Invest in BPI Equity Fund for a minimum initial investment of ₱5,000. Subsequent investments are in a minimum of ₱1,000.

Let's start talking about what you want and what suits you best. Call the Trust Marketing Division at 845-5222/8065287 or 818-9555/8944, or visit any BPI/BPI Family Bank branch and let your BPI Relationship Manager walk you through a Client Suitability Test.

BPI ASSET MANAGEMENT
Put Your Trust in Our Name

AS LOW AS P250 FAX REPAIR
OFFICE EQUIPMENTS REPAIR
ALL BRANDS, ALL MODELS
15% DISCOUNT

On fearless forecasts

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

WHEN ECONOMIC ANALYSTS MADE their 2007 projections about Philippine economic performance late last year or early this year, these things were not quite anticipated enough in formulating their projections or forecasts:

One, most had assumed that the foreign exchange rate would average near P50 to the dollar. The government had sustained it so far in the range P51.53 in drawing up the 2007 budget that was approved by Congress. Two, crude oil prices had been expected to soften following earlier spurts of short- P70-a-barrel prices that had provoked near-double digit inflation in 2006. The government's assumption was around $63.92 a barrel. And three, world economic growth—especially in the US, the world's biggest economy and a destination for big portions of Philippine exports—was expected to moderate somewhat, but not differ substantially from the 2006 performance.

Way off

As we approach the end of the year, we see that these haven't quite turned out as expected. In fact, those earlier assumptions proved to be way off. The exchange rate has just breached P43 to the dollar, and the end to the dollar's depreciation... and therefore the peso's appreciation trend—is nowhere in sight. Crude oil prices, at $95 a barrel, are widely expected to breach $100 shortly. And US Federal Reserve Bank Chair Ben Bernanke has just testified before the US Senate last week that the US economy can be expected to slow down more than earlier expected. What happened?

There major deviations from earlier assumptions, which are cannot deny as be essentially projections or best-guess forecasts in themselves, reinforce my concern anew that our economists should be humble enough to admit that we don't have all the answers. Much of what influences the performance of the economy lies beyond what economic theories can explain, in what econometric models can measure and account for.

Way out

I found myself recently telling a small audience not to rely too heavily on so-called experts' economic forecasts (including mine!). Let's face it: the track record, in general, hasn't particularly been sterling. We've used casual observation tells like this through time, economic forecasts...even those based on the best econometric minds or most sophisticated econometric models—have been more misses than hits.

Of course, are econometrics can always explain away the misses of forecasts as targets. They do not get realized. We would always rationalize that this or that assumption behind the forecast did not materialize. We could then point out that determining the exact nature of those assumptions has become one more consequence because they are influenced either by politics, natural disasters, or acts of God.

Gov't spending . . .

Please turn page B4

ment," the report said.

While unanimously over the US economic outlook was likely to linger through 2008, Nomura said further deterioration of Philippine exports could be averted based on a likely recovery in global semiconductor demand through the first half of 2008 and the continued strength in the Chinese economy.

The bank also said the P1.167-trillion 2008 budget for 2008 that allowed a 20.7 percent increase in the allotment for capital spending, including infrastructure investment.

But while the sale of government assets planned for the next two years would likely boost short-term revenues, Nomura said it would not be able to bring sustained benefits unless more assets would be privatized.

"Thus, to achieve a balanced budget in 2008 and increase infrastructure investment in the 2009 budget, we think further revenue building policies are needed," it said.

Nomura said it also expected stable remittances from overseas Filipino workers. These inflows have led to a sharp peso appreciation this year.

"We [see] further peso appreciation, buoyed by OFW remittances and funds flowing into local equities," Nomura said.

The Japanese financial institution also sees scope for further monetary easing by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas given the low level of domestic inflation, slowing growth in money supply and the growing risk of an export slump.

It expects the country's inflation rate in any mall within government targets, projecting inflation at 2.9 percent this year but picking up to 4.6 percent next year and 5.5 percent in 2009.

Aside from the expected economic slump in the US, the top market for the country's exports, Nomura sees higher crude oil prices as a risk factor through 2008.

Based on the GDP growth outlook, Nomura says the Philippines outperforming the 5.8 percent average forecast for Southeast Asia's four biggest economies this year. The forecast growth for 2007 was higher than the 6.5 percent growth outlook for Indonesia, 6 percent for Malaysia and 4.4 percent for Thailand.

For next year, however, Indonesia was expected to be the best performing with a growth rate of 6.4 percent against the regional average of 5.9 percent.

The Philippines was again seen to become the top performer among Asean in 2009 when the regional average was forecast at 5.6 percent.

What happened

Let me return to the question. What happened? In the case of the exchange rate, the dollar turned out to slide more sharply than had earlier been anticipated. For the most part, it has lately been influenced by the US subprime housing loans crisis that hardly anybody expected. Although there were some isolated voices warning of the problem even early on, and who are now able to say "I told you so"). Major central banks are also moving away from the dollar as a reserve asset, and unloading large amounts of it. China has reportedly done so recently. For us, it also means the surge in OFW remittances continues to surprise, especially in the face of the apparent slowdown in the numbers of workers actually deployed overseas.

Surging crude oil prices are attributed to declining oil reserves, to petty product investments, anticipated supply disruptions due to recent bombings in oil-rich Afghanistan and an oil pipeline in Nigeria, and intensely surging demands from rapidly growing Asian economies, and the continued weakening of the dollar. Meanwhile, the impacts of this subprime crisis on the real US economy are just unfolding, and most authoritative analyses are exemplified by that of Bernanke points to a short outlook that does not look good.

Way ahead

What does the way ahead look like? Dare I answer this question, after all that I've said above? The annual meeting of the Philippine Economic Society will have its usual session on alternative "Scenario forecasts" (including one on Friday morning at the PSP auditorium. You may wish to come and listen, even if only for its entertainment value. In any case, if you do come and listen, it is not so much the forecasts you ought to search out closely for. Watch out, rather, for the assumptions behind them.

Comments welcome at chabito@yahoo.com

WANT YOUR ASSETS & LOVED ONES ARE SAFE & SECURE... ANYTIME, ANYWHERE
MYSOLUTIONS CCTV SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM
www.mysolutions.com.ph

WIN! Win with the faster printer!
FUJI XEROX
FREE Printer
Buy 5 toners get Free Printer
Php 8,000
Distributed by: AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC. • Tel: 721-3601 • Fax: 725-1861

VISIT The Country's Largest & Most Comprehensive Expo on Construction Equipment, Building Materials & Interior Products
FREE ENTRANCE
PHILCONSTRUCT 2007
17th Philippine International Construction Equipment and Building Materials Exhibition & Technology Forum
NOVEMBER 15 - 18, 2007 WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA
INCORPORATING:
MINING ASIA 2007
Modern Homes Expo 07
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:
LIST OF SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS
November 15, Thursday
November 16, Friday
November 17, Saturday
November 18, Sunday
SHOW HOURS:
November 15 - 17: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00p.m.
November 18: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00p.m.
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

SPECIAL PRICE
RICOH
Canon
olivetti
intimus
OFFICE
ELITE
Printing life
PRINT TOWN

Cebu Pacific eyes 'Airport City'

By Rex T. Ochoa

CEBU PACIFIC is closing up to invest in the commercial complex or "airport city" being planned for the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) officials told the business.

DOTC Inter-agency Affairs Undersecretary Manuel Mendoza said in a roundtable discussion with the business that the agency and Cebu Pacific were having exploratory talks for expanding the area devoted to commercial establishments in Area 1.

Mendoza said it was talking to two possible investors but Mendoza said he was not aware of any other investor or documentation about the airport city at this time.

"Anyway, the talks with Cebu Pacific are still in the early stages. There is no way to know (prospective investors)," Mendoza said.

Ledesma Mina, project manager of Mactan Cebu told reporters that an initial study conducted by the agency found out that the terminal's economic potential could be maximized by turning Area 1 into an "airport city" and thus decluttering Area 2 to domestic flights and Area 3 to international services. The Manila Domestic Airport can then be used for general aviation.

Gio said the plan would also put the airport complex in par with those of other countries in Asia, such as Japan and South Korea, especially if the three terminals could be connected by rail.

But Mina is taking its time to carefully finalize the details for the funding and the possible investors for the "airport city" project since Area 2's opening has been postponed many times because of legal battles.

WE'LL FIX IT FAST!
Authorized distributor of Hewlett Packard peripheral products
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4894

Asian Appraisal Company, Inc.
Professional Business & Property Valuation Consultants covering:
Preparation of:

Go DIGITAL for only P 5,865.00
ArcMedic

PRIME MAKATI PROPERTIES FOR SALE
Pronowi Tai & Associates

Pinoy, INSURED KNB?
AKSI
P10 LANG, INSURED NA NA SA HALAGANG P10,000!

Celebrate & have fun together
DRAGON FIREWORKS
BIG DISCOUNT & more prizes + FREE DELIVERY
+ for every P2,500.00 you get FREE DISCOUNT TICKET for 5 to
AVILON
WE ACCEPT DEALERS (WHOLESALE AND RETAIL)

Everything You Need In One Small Package
SD420U
MITSUBISHI
LINK WORTH INTERNATIONAL INC.

Click n Print!
The Best Deal to Save your Card Future
Buy 1 Zebra® P330i Card Printer and get a Kodak C310 Digital camera and 2 rolls of Zebra Card Printer Ribbons for FREE!
Zebra Card Printer Solutions
Promo Period: Nov. 12 to Dec. 12, 2007

AVLS All Visual & Lights Systems
Call us for a FREE DEMO

Philippine Manning Convention 2007

November 12 and 13, 2007
One Esplanade, Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park Bay,
Pasay City, Philippines

"Joining Hands in Meeting the Global Demand for Filipino Seafarers - Towards a Committed Partnership"

Keynote Speaker:
"HON. ARTURO D. BRION"
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

Participating Organizations:

Supported By:

DOE tightens rules on service contract applicants

Focus on financial, technical capabilities

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH THE GLOBAL SCRAMBLE to find new oil and gas fields, the Department of Energy has committed to impose stricter requirements on service contract applicants, to ensure that they will complete their exploration programs.

"The [applicants] will have a formal presentation on their capabilities...their financial and technical ability to comply with the proposed program of work. This presentation will be open to the public and to the media," Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said.

Earlier this year, the DOE issued Department Circular No. 2007-04-0003, which laid down specific guidelines governing the transfer of participating interests, rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts.

With the circular, the DOE hoped to ensure the transparency of the procedures for the transfer of participating interests, rights and obligations in petroleum service contracts. The circular's provisions, according to the DOE, are in line with existing government policies.

Assignees or transferees should not only have the financial muscle to undertake capital-intensive activities such as exploration and development of petroleum blocks, but should also possess the technical expertise and experience that such activities required.

They should also be legally qualified to enter into petroleum service contracts, the circular said.

In terms of financial capabilities, a prospective transferee should have available financial resources, including capital, credit facilities and guarantees to undertake its obligations under the service contract.

On the technical side, the prospective transferee should have officers and employees with enough technical and industrial qualifications, including eligibilities and work-related experiences. It should also have the technical and industrial resources for the exploration, development and production of petroleum resources.

Under the circular, no transfer of petroleum service contract rights or obligations could take place without prior approval of the DOE.

In the case of a rights and obligations transfer to an affiliate of a qualified contract holder, the affiliate should have the same level of financial, legal and technical qualifications as the "transferor" or "assignor."

The affiliate relationship should also be maintained during the life of the service contract, the DOE-circular said.

The circular also sought to prevent service contractors from acquiring their rights and obligations immediately after the execution of the service contract.

HONDA Philippines senior vice president for corporate responsibility Martin Sundelin shares the features of his mobile phone to Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, and Education Secretary Jesli Lapus at the relaunch of the Text2Teach program, which aims to promote technology-aided education. TXT is a project of Globe Telecom, Ayala Foundation, Nokia and Smart-Innotech. (GMA-PR)

KILL ARTHRITIS IN 5 MINUTES

"NERVE STIMULATION"

© HAN SUNG MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

First Gen to award $30-M contract in early 2008

LIFTED FROM FIRST GEN CORP.WSJ award by early next year a $30-million contract for the expansion of its 132-MW Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower plants in Nueva Ecija.

This will raise the plants' capacity by 17 megawatts.

First Gen vice chair and chief executive Peter Garrucho said the company was now in "final negotiations" with a vendor that would provide the materials and services for the construction of the expansion unit.

The awarding of the contract, he said, should take place by early 2008.

"We had to conduct a thorough review of the project since upgrades are difficult to execute. We need to find out the quality of equipment to be used. But we already have a potential vendor in mind and we're now in the final stage of negotiations," he told reporters.

He said the planned upgrade would make the Pantabangan-Masiway hydropower complex 5 percent more efficient, which meant that 5 percent less water would be used to generate a kilowatt of power.

"This will enable us to use our water resource more efficiently. Pantabangan-Masiway has the largest water reservoir (among hydropower plants) at 3 billion cubic meters. We'll have to look at water pricing (with the upgrade and expansion)," he said.

Following the government's issuance of the Pantabangan-Masiway plant package to First Gen subsidiary First Gen Hydro Power Corp. late last year, the company announced it would expand the plants' capacity by 139 MW.

Garrucho said in an earlier interview that if things went well with the upgrade, the company would undertake an $80-million expansion project that would add another 65 MW unit to the Pantabangan plant and another 11-MW unit to the Masiway facility.

Those new units should come on stream by mid-2010. —Abigail L. Ho

BDO

Unsecured Subordinated Notes

Issue	Unsecured subordinated notes qualifying for Lower Tier II capital
Issue Size	A minimum of PHP5 billion
Offer Period	8-16 November 2007
Interest Rate	7.00% p.a.[1]
Maturity	November 2017
Optional Redemption	November 2012
Minimum Investment	PHP500,000[2]
Interest Payment	Semi-annual
Roadshows	7 November Manila 8 November Cebu 9 November Davao

HSBC
The world's local bank

Lead Arranger and Selling Agent

For inquiries, please call the Selling Agents:
BDO - 702-6000 local 5801 to 5805; 878-4467; 878-4471; 878-4479
HSBC - 888-5372 Institutional & Corporate Investors
830-5710 Retail Investors

[1] If not previously redeemed on Optional Redemption Date, the Notes will pay a Step-Up Interest Rate and Maturity Date
[2] And in aggregate multiples of PHP100,000. Subject further to each Selling Agent's minimum requirements.

Corruption . . .

From page B1

compared to its global peers, the survey results showed.

The Philippines also ranked 103rd in the overall quality of its infrastructure. It ranked 109th in terms of installed telephone lines, 102nd in terms of the quality of port infrastructure and 82nd in the quality of air transport infrastructure.

Surprisingly, however, the country fared highly in terms of available seat kilometers on its air transport network, at 30th worldwide. This aspect was the only infrastructure metric where the country held a global competitive advantage, according to the survey.

"Just imagine how much better our ranking could be in this field if we had an open skies policy," Mundo said.

The NSC official lamented, however, that it has become fashionable to hype the country's shortcomings while completely overlooking the positive aspects, several of which were highlighted in the competitiveness rankings.

"We are moving forward," he said. "It's just that in some important aspects, other countries are moving forward faster." (To be concluded)

Cautious trading seen

From page B1

Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke had said that he expected the US economy to show noticeable in the fourth quarter.

"Bernanke gave no indication as to whether there were any more rate plannedby the Fed. He cautioned about a slowing economy in 2008 as the US housing sector continued to slump," Yuseng noted.

"Should oil prices continue to rise and the dollar continue to weaken, then it would mean more trouble for the US. The Philippine market is likely to follow the US lead on. Further declines in the four will drag down the PSEi," Yuseng said.

He noted that investors would look at policy moves by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas instead for possible good news. The Bangko Sentral's policy-making Monetary Board is set to meet on Nov. 15 to decide whether or not to further cut key interest rates.

"I see a 50-basis point reduction as a distinct possibility," Yuseng said. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

SMC firms up . . .

From page B1

PNOC-EDC auction.

Prequalified entities have until Nov. 21 to submit their bids for the PNOC-EDC shares. The notice of award will be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22, with payment of the full bid price by Nov. 30, the closing date of the transaction.

Aveiro Asia is an active buyer of Asian bank debt and was the biggest bidder of debt paper of Bonifacio Holdings Corp. and Citra Metro Manila. Tollways Corp. at one point, San Miguel sources said.

According to Philippine National Construction Corp., one of Citra's owners is Aveiro Asia Special Situations Fund III, an investment vehicle of a Hong Kong-based asset management firm Aveiro Capital Group.

As of Sept. 30, Aveiro Capital Group's assets under management allocated to its Aveiro Asia strategy were about $4.1 billion.

The strategy generally targets Asia's distressed debt, restructured debt, and viable companies presenting positive cash flow, New York-based Aveiro Capital Group, formed in 1999, focuses on distressed and undervalued credit-related securities (both public and private), bank loans, trade claims and private investments (debt and equities).

San Miguel is boosting its war chest for its fruity trio new businesses such as power by an additional P124 billion ($2.9 billion) from the proposed sale of its Australian business—particularly its dairy products, juice and Tonic—to Japanese partner Kirin Holdings Co. Ltd. and Lion Nathan Ltd., a 46-percent owned firm of Kirin.

San Miguel announced last week it was selling all of its holdings in Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. to Kirin for $1.6 billion (A$1.6 billion). Kirin owns 19.9 percent in San Miguel.

San Miguel has also signed a definitive agreement to sell its premium Tasmanian brewery Lion Nathan for roughly $900 million (A$935 million).

Private sector, government push key judicial reforms

By Rosnal N. Dorotan

THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVernment have joined forces to institute judicial reforms seen averting billions of pesos in economic losses every year.

Miguel D. Varela, the National Competitiveness Council's champion for special concerns, said the reforms were meant to address the loss of P7 billion to P13 billion every year attributed to the "poor performance" of the judicial system.

"The wheels of justice turns slowly even on lawsuits related to business and economic issues and that has been putting upward pressure on the cost of doing business," Varela said.

"Such situation is one of the factors that discourage foreign investors from putting their money into the country," the lawyer said.

Ongoing steps include the mainstreaming of arbitration as a means of quickly settling businesses-related issues along with the implementation of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Law.

"This is being given a boost with the establishment of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, which is PCC's submission arm," Varela said.

"Another step is the revision of some provisions of Rule 65 of the Rules of Court, to provide a remedy to any aggrieved litigant when courts or tribunals acted with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction," he added.

These changes, he said, were being initiated through the US Agency for International Development's Rule of Law Effectiveness project.

Varela said the negative effect on business of the judicial system's performance had been cited in various studies on a disincentive to doing business in the Philippines.

Varela said further that the NCC, a partnership between the government and businesses, has listed judicial reforms among the key issues that needed to be resolved.

Varela, who is also chair emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said this showed a deep appreciation of the role that the judiciary could play in helping improve the country's competitiveness as well as council's role in helping improve the business function of the judiciary.

Money supply growing below cap

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas says money supply in October growing below the 20-percent cap, boosting expectations of another cut in benchmark interest rates this week.

"Monetary operations have been effective and successful and we're keeping the growth in monetary aggregates for October at below 20 percent," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said Friday.

A money supply growth above 20 percent is expected to drive up prices of basic commodities as more money chases after the same goods and services.

Based on the latest BSP report, growth in broad money supply **has further slowed down to** 11.4 percent year-on-year in September from 14.9 percent in August.

Domestic liquidity or M3 is the broadest measure of money and is used to evaluate the excess supply of money within an economy.

That includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market **freehand short-term** repurchase agreements.

It is one of the indicators closely monitored by the inflation-targeting BSP in its monetary setting.

With the growth in domestic liquidity on track with targets, there is a growing market consensus that the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has room to cut its benchmark interest rates.

Some large financial institutions have bet on another 25 basis point reduction during the policy one coming this week.

The BSP slashed its overnight rates for the second time this year in October to 5.73 percent for the overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase rate and 7.73 percent for the overnight lending or repurchase rate.

The central bank has stepped up its open liquidity more effectively done May when it conducted its high-yielding special deposit accounts (SDAs) into a more powerful monetary tool.

It now relies more on SDAs than its overnight borrowings or repurchase rates.

Based on the latest data as of Oct. 11, the BSP has locked up about P982 billion in excess liquidity using the SDAs versus some P2.13 billion using its traditional overnight borrowings.

Before the BSP made the SDA more attractive, placements in this facility amounted to only P64 billion while the amount released using the overnight borrowings was much larger at P941 billion.

The shift was deemed necessary after the rules on SDAs were amended.

Under the new rules, even banks' trust departments and nonbank non-corporations can place funds with the SDAs and earn attractive interest rates.

The central bank has likewise made these instruments available as **compliance to banks'** 30 percent liquidity (liens or the portion of deposits and deposit substitutes required to be held as a buffer during bad times.

As a result, SDA placements widened to P280 billion in June and P360 billion in July before breaching the P400-billion mark in August.

Fruit exports seen rising in '07

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE expects exports of fruits to increase this year due to recent breakthroughs in meeting global phytosanitary requirements.

Last year, fruit exports amounted to more than $700 million.

In a recent gathering of fruit growers, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said these breakthroughs include the accreditation of four establishments in Mindanao, which will provide ozonized hot water dip treatment services for mangoes bound for China.

The DA is also stepping up efforts to meet stringent phytosanitary requirements to establish the entry of mangoes from Davao del Sur and Cotabato to major markets such as the United States and Australia.

A series of stakeholder field conferences and studies, funded by the US Department of Agriculture and Australia, are also being conducted nationwide.

Through the BPI, the DA is conducting a survey in 14 mango-producing provinces in the Visayas, which will be completed next year.

A similar survey was also done in Batangas.

After Visayas, the USDA survey will cover 27 other provinces in Mindanao.

"All of these efforts are expected to further boost our mango exports, which last year amounted to more than $30 million, of which $20 million was in the form of fresh mangoes," Yap said.

Yap added that the DA will "continue to pursue initiatives and provide technical and logistics assistance to enable our fruit growers, processors and exporters to comply with global phytosanitary standards, and thus, tap huge export potentials."

According to Yap, these include support services for small farmers such as the distribution of virus-free planting materials, credit, post-harvest and marketing assistance and the construction of packing houses.

Other services include the participation in international trade missions and local exhibitions, improving transport of farm goods, and tapping logistics centers and barangay food terminals to help fruit growers sell their produce.

For bananas, the USDA-FAS-Philippines is expecting a 7.09-percent growth to 7.345 million metric tons in 2007, from last year's production of 6.860 million MT.

Mango production, on the other hand, is projected to grow 7.18 percent this year to 986,115 MT from 918,977 MT in 2006.

For pineapples, the DA is projecting production to reach 1.925 million MT in 2007, up by 5 percent from 1.834 million MT in 2006.

RP seeks help in battling coco pest

THE PHILIPPINES HAS sought the help of the world's top coconut producers in winning the war against the pest that has threatened the future of coconut trade and production.

At the 58th session of the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community, the DA stressed that the world's coconut producers should pursue joint efforts to wipe out the coconut leaf beetle or Brontispa longissima gestro.

The beetle "smothers" the coconut leaves and prevents the trees from bearing fruit.

"We are here for the benefit of our stakeholders, most especially the millions of small farmers and their families who depend on coconut farming," Agriculture Undersecretary Jesus Dimasuhid Reyes said during the forum.

Reyes told APCC members that the country "will take great assistance, as we could effectively wipe out brontispa from infesting damage in the whole Asia Pacific region."

Next to Indonesia, the Philippines is the world's second largest producer of coconut products, with annual domestic trade and production valued at $900 million.

Amy R. Remo

BSP forex buying tops $800M

Doris C. Dumlao

Bid to slow down peso climb

...BSP's net purchases of foreign ex... ...from the spot market topped ... billion from Oct. 1-23, up from ... billion in September.

...d to counteract the ... ...foreign portfolio investments ... ...peso's appreciation, which ... ...following a crisis-control ... ...Federal Reserve and the start of ... ...easing season for overseas work... ...

...BSP's net purchases of foreign ex... ...from the spot market topped ... billion from Oct. 1-23, up from ... billion in September.

...d to counteract the ... ...foreign portfolio investments ... ...peso's appreciation, which ... ...following a crisis-control ... ...Federal Reserve and the start of ... ...easing season for overseas work...

...ers. These investments historically peak in the fourth quarter because of the Christmas season, the country's longest and most extravagant holiday.

...from the $800 billion, net inflows of foreign portfolio investments—or money placed in instruments, bonds and money market instruments—have returned to positive levels in September.

...From a net outflow of $2.63-B mil... ...in August at the height of the global financial volatility triggered by the US property downturn, the Philippines garnered $93.78 million in net foreign portfolio inflows in September. For the period Oct. 1-26, the net portfolio inflows surged further to $395 million.

...These strong portfolio inflows, which posted this year at $1.1 billion in July, have driven up the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index to record highs this year.

...At the BSP's record heavy purchases of dollars to replenish its dwindling foreign currency stocks increased to $41.10 billion after falling to $0.3 billion in August at the height of the global risk aversion caused by the US credit crunch. However, the level was still below the all-time high of $33 billion posted in May.

...Since last year, swaps have become a major tool used by the BSP to sop up excess foreign exchange purchased from the Philippine Dealing System. The central bank sporadically intervenes in the foreign exchange market to temper volatility and cushion the blow impact of a rising peso on exporters and households relying on overseas remittances.

Viva Com hopes to raise ₱1.85B in maiden offer

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacsamana

MOVIE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTION content giant Viva Communications Inc. (Viva Com) aims to generate up to ₱1.85 billion in fresh capital from its planned initial public offer of new and existing shares, its underwriter said.

The fresh funds will allow Viva Com to acquire new technology to meet growing demand for content in various platforms.

BDO Capital & Investment Corp., a unit of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, is offering a total of 142.9 million shares at between ₱9.72 and ₱12.95 apiece. This could raise between ₱1.39 to ₱1.85 billion in gross proceeds.

Of the total offer, approximately 93.6% or 133.8 million shares will comprise primary or new shares that could rise up to ₱1.2 billion for the company at the maximum price range proposed.

Roughly 35 percent of the company will be sold to the public through the primary offer.

The secondary offering in shares to be sold by existing shareholders, will consist of 49.99 million shares, which could raise ₱644 million for the selling shareholders.

Apart from repaying its debt, Viva Com will use the proceeds to fund expansion, such as programming for additional cable channels, acquisition of films and production, and conversion of the company's film library into digital format, Francisco said.

BDO Capital and Investment Corp. was tasked to underwrite or manage the public offer. The company has also tapped UBS Investment Inc. as financial adviser.

Viva Com was established in 1981, coincidentally the Viva Group of Companies' dominant position as provider of entertainment content for Filipino audiences in various media all over the world.

Viva Com is composed of film production unit Viva Productions Inc., talent development and management company Viva Artists' Agency and home video distributor Viva Video Inc.

Viva Com produces motion pictures, licenses exclusive film materials, manages artists and distributes home video products in DVD (digital versatile disc) and VCD (video compact disc) forms.

It is also owns the largest library of Filipino films, with almost 3,000 films and television clips. The company has a presence in all aspects of the content distribution chain, releasing material through theaters, free TV, domestic and foreign pay TV, live productions and new media outlets, such as mobile phone ringtones and SMS or MMS.

Entertainment content are now also be viewed on-line via the Internet.

It is estimated that nontheatrical revenues now account for at least 15 percent of the total generated by a single film, industry sources said.

Demand for Filipino content has expanded beyond local shores.

In 2006, about two percent of Viva Com's licensing revenues were from international sales.

This figure is expected to grow as subscribers to Viva Com's Filipino movie channel, Pinoy Box Office, increase as more subscribers channel is currently available, such as Europe, Japan, the Middle East and the United States, and as the channel's reach expands beyond those countries.

The Viva Group is led by its chair and chief executive officer Vic del Rosario Jr., who co-founded Viva Films Corp. where he was 19 years old.

eTelecare eyes different form of listing

By Russiel W. Domingo

HONG KONG-LISTED CONTACT center firm eTelecare Global Solutions announced over the weekend that it intends to list by way of introduction on the Philippine Stock Exchange (see box).

In a statement, eTelecare said that it does not intend to raise capital when it lists on the PSE. The move will only allow shareholders to trade their common shares on the broader market.

Listing by way of introduction does not require a firm to sell shares to the public.

The Cayman CIS-based company said listing on the PSE would remove certain Philippine regulatory requirements that make it more difficult for common shareholders to convert their shares into American Depository Shares.

ADS represents equity in a firm that was incorporated outside the United States which, when collectively represented in an American Depositary Receipt issued by a US bank, would be traded on American exchanges just like American stocks.

Although eTelecare's common shareholders always were able to convert their common shares to ADS, which they subsequently trade on the Nasdaq Global Market regulatory requirements that make it more difficult for common shareholders to convert their shares into ADS, which they subsequently trade on the Nasdaq Global Market regulatory requirements that make it more difficult for common shareholders to convert their shares into American Depository Shares.

ADS represents equity in a firm that was incorporated outside the United States which, when collectively represented in an American Depositary Receipt issued by a US bank, would be traded on American exchanges just like American stocks.

Although eTelecare's common shareholders always were able to convert their common shares to ADS, which they subsequently

Pearl Asian beefs up ranks of miners

PEARL ASIAN MINING Industries Inc. has announced that it will beef up its corps of professionals in the field as it remains gearing up its Gregorio gold mill in Bulacan, by round-the-clock operations.

Company chief executive Jason Thomson said in a statement that the firm had begun a 30-day test run of the gold milling unit on Oct. 27.

Thomson added that the Gregorio project is "on track to produce first gold bullion by the end of November."

The CEO added that there has been indications of rich gold mineralization along the deepest parts of the 675-foot deep tunnel.

"We now look to increasing our stockpiles so as to provide the Gregorio plant to operate 24/7," he said.

Thomson added that Pearl Asian is in the process of hiring additional technical staff, including mining engineers, geologists, chemical and civil engineers, in order to increase production at both the Gregorio Gold Rush and the Consolacion's XIV Gold Project.

"With gold at a high of $835.20 to ounce (as of Nov. 9), there is no time like the present to put operations into high gear," Thomson said.

Earlier, Pearl Asian said it expected the Gregorio project to yield some 820.3 million tonnes of gold.

Bernard M. Dominguez

Maybank

Tel. 8504151
09172087769

PSE merger with other Asean bourses pushed

Greater economies of scale, enhanced competitiveness

By Dinah L. Lucir

THE LOCAL STOCK MARKET must merge with other bourses in the region to remain relevant and competitive vis-à-vis its regional rivals over the next decade, an international consultancy group said.

In a study published recently, McKinsey & Co. reckoned that Asian bourses face the risk of being marginalized by such exchanges in the West, which had pursued mergers or alliances to better secure the market.

"For the first time, mergers of exchanges across national boundaries are becoming a reality, leading to greater economies of scale," it said.

Lack of depth, global scale

"In contrast, the independent exchanges of Eastern Asia, with their lower liquidity and sub-scale trading and clearing facilities, face a serious risk of being left behind," it warned.

The firm said that despite their strong performance in recent months, the markets remained inferior to larger ones like Hong Kong and Japan.

"The limit of the problem is the lack of depth and global scale in Southeast Asia's capital markets," McKinsey said.

While Malaysia and Singapore have relatively deep cases, the domestic capitalization of their counterparts in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand is substantially below GDP (gross domestic product).

McKinsey said the average market capitalization-to-GDP ratio for more developed economies stood at 1.5 times GDP or more.

The Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) has surpassed this level in recent months due to the strong influx of foreign portfolio investments which have pushed local stock prices to new record highs.

At present, the total market value of all 213 firms listed on the PSE stands at P4.8 trillion. In contrast, the country's GDP is expected to hit at least P6.2 trillion by the end of 2007, putting the value of the local stock market at 1.4 times GDP.

Low turnover, high cost

Other woes that the PSE shares with markets in the region include a relatively low turnover rate and relatively higher transaction cost compared to the Western securities giants.

"In every regional market except Thailand, no average share is traded less than once every two years, placing Southeast Asia's exchanges far behind those in developed markets and most of those in Northern Asia," McKinsey said.

Because of this, the cost of trading stands about 16 percent higher in Southeast Asia than in Northern Asia-mainly Japan and Korea-and 220 percent higher than in developed markets.

"The cost of liquidity, or the price impact of making a trade, was 50 percent higher than in Northern Asia and 200 percent higher than in the West," the study said. "Therefore, raising equity was 2-4 percent more expensive in Southeast Asia's exchanges than for their counterparts in more mature markets."

Regional integration

The study warned that if Southeast Asia's exchanges continue to pursue a "fully independent future," most of them risk falling behind or being "thrown aside" to establishment by their rivals.

"Regional integration, by contrast, would change the power relationships," it said. "Last year the five main Asean exchanges, if combined, would have ranked as the 15th largest exchange in the world and the third largest in Asia, after Tokyo and Hong Kong."

"In the short term, thanks to favorable domestic regulations and the natural pooling effect of domestic liquidity, the immediate threat to Southeast Asia's exchanges is limited," the study said. "However, the longer-term threat is very real, and one's own home-ground vigor is not the example, when liquidity markets decline...it may be too late."

STARAUCTION No. 3

MEGA MANILA

ANTIPOLO

CALOOCAN

MALABON

MANILA

PASAY

PASIG CITY (ORTIGAS)

QUEZON CITY

VALENZUELA

LUZON

BAGUIO

BATAAN

BATANGAS

BULACAN

CAVITE

LAGUNA

PAMPANGA

PANGASINAN

TARLAC

ZAMBALES

VISAYAS

BACOLOD

CEBU

ILOILO

MINDANAO

CAGAYAN DE ORO

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

DAVAO

GENERAL SANTOS

MISAMIS

NORTH COTABATO

SOUTH COTABATO

SULTAN KUDARAT

TAGUM

FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM PHILS., MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 7 AM TO 7 PM
TEL. NOS.: (02) 634-9000 / (02) 634-8733 CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-6849033

Eton to launch mega city project in Laguna

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ETON PROPERTIES PHILIPpines Inc., the real-estate arm of tycoon Lucio Tan, is set to formally breathe life into its upcoming township dubbed "Eton Mega City" in Cabuyao, Laguna.

The project is expected to help boost economy in the southern portion of Metro Manila.

During a thanksgiving dinner for Eton cluster heads Friday night, company president Emelie Ignacio unveiled the massive development that will be launched by a 150-hectare island home development surrounded by a man-made lake. This will be the first phase of the 1,000-hectare Eton Mega City.

Ignacio said the man-made lake will cover 17 hectares and may be about 9-8 feet deep. Investors may buy lots of at least 500 square meters.

Ignacio said best to free "islands" of one hectare each would be "built" and each "island" would accommodate 30 residential lots.

"We received an offer to buy one island for P300 million. If you buy 10 lots in one island, you get the seating rights," Ignacio said without mentioning the prospective buyer.

Eton City, in San Pedro town, an island built on engineered landfill on the bay, served as the inspiration for the design of Lakeside 88 Village. Housing developments in Eton City surround the 88-hectare artificial lagoon.

Eton Mega City is envisioned to become the "Makati City of the South." The project will include a golf course and a central business district of 100 hectares, which will host office buildings and retail spaces.

The project will also include a business hotel (without fanfare), residential components (would be house and lots, townhouses, medium-rise buildings) and a school such as the University of the East, which Tan Tan owns/operates.

Aside from its Laguna project, Eton will embark on a 34-hectare beach resort project in Morong, Cebu. This will help boost tourism in the city," Ignacio had said. The project, dubbed the Eton Resort, will be ready next year.

Solaire Resorts and Holdings Co. Inc., now Eton, got the nod of its stockholders' approval to change its name for the purpose into that of a property company from a holding firm.

Eton earlier said it was pouring P20-billion into residential, office and leisure projects in less than five years in a bid to become one of the top five biggest real estate firms in the country.

The Lucio Tan Group boasts of a rich experience in property development in Hongkong, Shanghai, Xiamen, Ningbo and Dalian.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2006 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B7

BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espina

THE AMARYLLIS

Brittany BEAUTIFUL

A Vista Land Company

Demand for valuable Social Prime address on a high

Buyers view 180° advantage as no.1 reason for purchase

The Marlon Towers is perhaps the only place offering a 180° view of Laguna de Bay and immediate access to top business and lifestyle hubs in Brittany's prime Social property development. Don't miss out on the chance to own a prime address at The Marlon Towers!

Call 830 0558 • 837 3851

Saving the terraces in style

Through ecocultural trips, tourists get to enjoy the sights in Ifugao and realize why it's worth preserving a natural wonder

A PEACE CORPS volunteer learns from the Ifuko master

IFUGAO city girl

By Tito Arvoo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS WERE JUSTIfiably proud when the majestic Ifugao rice terraces were included in the list of "1,000 Places to See before You Die" compiled by best-selling travel writer Patricia Schultz.

Travelers, however, will have to hoof up and make the trip because the expansive terraces—declared a world heritage site by Unesco—are slowly, but surely, dying.

Many factors have been cited for the painful deterioration of the terraces, the effects most of the terraces by the new generations of Ifugao for better paying jobs in the lowlands and even abroad, the conversion of some paddies into vegetable farms, and even poor irrigation.

In addition, the elders who carry with them the traditional knowledge and skills in preserving and taking care of the paddies

THE EIGHTH wonder of the world in peril

PUMBAKOS or rustic prizes

are dying, with very few of the young Ifugaos willing and eager to take their place.

Tourism as answer

Even Unesco put the terraces on the World Heritage in Danger list in 2001 due to the deterioration, just six years after

SAYS SO-1

Basta LBC,

MAKAKARATING!

ployment ban to Niger

TEAM LBC
HARI NG PADALA!

INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC DOOR-TO-DOOR COURIER SERVICE

Money Remittance • Bill Payments • Flowers Express • Photo Printing

With over 600 branches nationwide • Customer Service: (02) 8585-909 • www.lbcexpress.com

Saving the terraces in style

THE HARVEST
Ifugao farmers in a

YOUNG Ifugao carry on the tradition

these were declared a living cultural landscape.

What does this encourage Ifugaos to stay and care for their precious parcels handed down from generation to generation?

The Save the Rice Terraces Movement wrestled with this question and found the obvious answer in tourism, one that is not just about seeing the sights, but actually getting visitors to experience the culture that makes the mountain province of Ifugao unique.

Since last year, the 7-year-old project has been organizing small eco-cultural tours in Ifugao. ATI Director's mouth of Metro Manila to encourage popular support to its noble cause to preserve the rice terraces and the rich Ifugao culture.

There are no professional tourist guides inviting a string of taxis to a hotel audience, rather young Ifugao volunteers eager to share their way of life to their many visitors.

Ifugao Gov. Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr. believes that for a sleeping lineup of ecotourists to Ifugao to time for the key events in the rice terraces planting and harvesting cycle, the locals will be encouraged to preserve their terraces and heritage for new generations to enjoy.

The tourists, on the other hand, will bring home with them an experience of not only seeing the majestic terraces, but actually working on them and observing firsthand the rich Ifugao culture that has nurtured the terraces for thousands of years.

Eco-cultural trips

An intrepid group of 47 students, nongovernment organization workers and seasoned travelers were the first to enjoy such an eco-cultural trip when they took part in the inaugural Bakle'l Ifugao held in August last year.

The Bakle'l Ifugao festival held in the village of Julongan in the old Ifugao capital of Kiangan invites above the world how Ifugaos perform their thanksgiving ritual for a bountiful harvest.

It starts with a mumbaki (native priest) guided in the traditional red and black loincloth chanting thanksgiving prayers with the natives with a chicken and native wine. Chants given as sacrifice and offering to the gods such as the bulolo rice god.

The mumbaki will then slice up the chicken and inspect the gall bladder with the natives gathering round with bated breath to read the harvest omens.

They all want to see a bright green gall bladder because it means more good luck ahead for the Ifugaos, who have managed to keep their cultural identity alive despite the steady march of modernization.

Chanted songs all around where the mumbaki declares a good omen, and is immediately followed by the distribution of the bakle'l (native rice cake) and the presenting of native symbols and gongs that both young and old Ifugaos dance to.

Participants taking part in the tour get the chance to try their hand at dancing Ifugao style, with the fiery native wine providing enough kick to lower inhibitions.

Ifugao hospitality

Come bedtime, guests get the simple Ifugao hospitality, which is as warm as advertised with the natives opening up their homes with a view of the rice terraces, and giving their best room and food to guests.

For those lucky enough, they can get to stay in a traditional Ifugao house, which today's engineers admire for its efficiency.

The one room wooden house on stilts and a thatched roof has enough room to store produce, rice and the family's other worldly possessions.

It is usually decorated by mounted skulls of animals, to demonstrate the hunting prowess of the master of the house.

The design has not changed over the ages, and a much talked about feature are the two-inch thick wooden slats between the stilts and the house's floor, which are not there for design but rather to keep out rats and other pests.

There are just some facets of the Ifugao culture due to increasing trend of newcomers know first hand through the eco-cultural tours.

The Bakle'l Ifugao was followed by the Lusdak tour in October where participants got to help restore the bunkers of the rice terraces.

In January this year, over 57 participants took part in the Tinod Ad Hangdhan, which was timed with the planting of the Ifugao Unawan rice in the municipality of Hungduan, home of one of the most picturesque terraces in Ifugao.

It was followed in April by the Tagang Ad Aagapis festival as planting the rice crops in Aagapis, and in June by the Mumi Ad Mapun-jaw in the municipality of Mayoyao to celebrate the rice harvest.

The next schedule runs full circle in August with the Bakle'l Kiangan.

In all of these tours, part of the proceeds of the eco cycle tours goes directly to the host municipalities to help the people promote and preserve their indigenous culture.

Logical strategy

Baguilat said tourism was a logical strategy to take for sustainable development because Ifugao has a lot to offer. "There are terraces in other parts of the Cordillera, but none as extensive and as varied as in this province.

"The terrace system in the municipality of Ifugao is shaped like an amphitheater, Banaue's is shaped like a spiral, Hapao has one of the few stone-walled terrace clusters, Mayoyao's has high walls and narrow paddies while Hungduan's has a spider web formation, with the terraces fanned in grasslands with patches of towering old pine forests.

"We are happy that with the years, we have been able to provide extra employment to out-of-school youth who act as guides, and added income to the host municipalities," Baguilat said.

Honeymoon sojourn

He added that as word of the Ifugao tours got around, different groups have called up to ask Ifugao for special tours.

A couple from Pretoria, for instance, asked for a honeymoon sojourn in Ifugao and its nearby Baguio and a group of engineering students from Manila asked to walk to an elder with laughter on how the terraces were made.

"In the future, we will be putting in place legislation so that the provincial government can adopt the tours as part of our economic strategy for the province," Baguilat said. (For more information on the Ifugao tours, call Jonathan Martin at (0906) 8910642)

HUMBAS Ifugaos like chicken's gallbladder

TOURISTS bar with the Ifugaos

Historic hotels in US given second chance to serve guests

ATLANTA—ELAINE HEBRARD FLANNERY TO ...ng in one of the dwindling local hotels, the ...ere she met The Ellis, she cancelled her reservation ...and booked a room at the renovated historic ...ned hotel.

...On the outside, the 11-floor hotel retains its ...early 1913 embellishments, complete with a ...ornamental open-air balcony on the second floor ...that was a mainstay for elegant Southern hotels in ...the city before air conditioning.

...Inside, however, the hotel boasts 2 lux...ury amenities, including plush beds, flat-...screen TVs and even a place to plug music from ...iPods.

"I really like boutique hotels—are aware a ...lot for work," said Hernandez, a 28-year-old ...sales representative from Los Angeles. "I loved ...the story—the windows have a really great ...view, the iPod dock, that was cool."

Across the United States, travellers are seek...ing a more luxurious experience.

...Stewart's Beaux Cadillac Hotel—built in ...1904—is being restored to open this next year ...as the 400-room Westin Book Cadillac Detroit. ...In its glory years, the hotel hosted Presidents ...John F. Kennedy and Harry S. Truman, but it ...stood vacant for more than a decade before ...preservationists began.

The spacious lobby of Oklahoma City's ...Skirvin Hotel became a place where all ...sorts met and mingled after it was built in 1910. ...It also sat empty for nearly 20 years until ...developers whose renovation of the $55 million ...restoration at the Skirvin Hilton, complete ...with 20 hand-carved Bavarian beams, accented ...by gold leafing, that poor from the hotel's pil...lars.

...In Seattle, a $26 million renovation was just ...completed for the century-old Alexis Hotel and ...Resort, the Charles Street Jail—built in ...1931 and once tagged by officials as "unfit for ...human living"—is now The Liberty Hotel.

"There's a trend, generally in the travel in...dustry for people wanting to make every part of ...their trip a unique experience and I think hotels ...are really responsive to that by providing ... a ...little more personality and a unique experi...ence," said Peter J. Pronk, editor in chief of the ...luxury travel website cuvee.com.

Pronk said the renovations also provide a ...new look for the hotels, which are trying to at...tract luxury customers. Rooms in The Alexis ...Hotel, which was built in 1901, for example, ...feature opulence mixed with modern touches, ...while the Liberty Hotel boasts views of Boston ...Harbour, 300-thread-count sheets and high-...definition televisions.

Before Atlanta's Ellis Hotel underwent a ...$30-million renovation and reopened for business ...in October, the building had been vacant ...for a few decades, never able to shake its im...age as the site of the deadliest hotel fire in US ...history. It previously was the Winecoff Hotel, ...where a fire erupted in 1946, killing 119 peo...ple.

But owner Jason Griffin said she saw the ...value of restoring a historic hotel on down...town Atlanta's famed Peachtree Street.

"We're starting a new page in history ... page ...one of a new story of a beautiful, stately hotel ...in Atlanta," Griffin said.

In Boston, the Liberty jail had been aban...doned for about a decade when previous ...owners began the quest for offers (also).

"It's a great location, in the foot of Beacon ...Hill, one of Boston's premier residential ar...eas," said Gary Johansen, lead architect for The ...Liberty Hotel project. "Most people in Boston ...have never set foot in the building and now ...

Keeping with the history of the space, jail cells ...appear in the hotel's restaurants and bars and ...glossy pass-through cells on the way to the elevators. ...Developers, of course, brought down the jail's ...former 14-foot-high perimeter wall.

"Nobody's hiding the fact it was a jail. In fact, ...we're celebrating that," Johansen said. "The ...building was once a social reform place, now ...it's one just to the friendly scene of the street."

PEDESTRIANS walk past the Ellis hotel (left), a recently renovated historic hotel. The building had been vacant for decades.

SME Insight
MBA 2007
MANAGE YOUR BUSINESS ADVANTAGE
A HALF-DAY FREE SEMINAR
REGISTER NOW!
WIN
Microsoft

The Makati of the South.

ETON CITY

The BEST Location in Sta. Rosa.

For advertisement purposes only

ETON Eton Properties Philippines, Inc.
A member of the Lucio Tan Group of Companies

750-6332 • 0917-8611262
www.eton.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino
BUSINESS Monday

Back to farming

He ran away from backbreaking farm job, only to get back to it ... and see his prospects bloom

BOARD: Vasquez and his family show Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap their mushroom-hybrid rice.

By Jerry S. Barros

BORN TO A FARMING FAMILY in Isabela, Rosauro "Rosay" Vasquez knew first hand the difficulties of rural farming life.

It was for this reason that he left home in search of a better life in Manila, even if he had earned a college degree in agriculture in his hometown.

Little did he know that several years down the road, it would be that hard farming life which would lift him and his family out of poverty.

Vasquez, 45, recalled that life for him was not easy when he was younger.

He related that they did not have any farm to call their own because his father Modesto Jr. was just a tenant cultivating a 1.5-hectare field.

The situation, however, did not hinder his parents from sending them to school. Out of six siblings, four of them finished with a degree in agriculture.

But Vasquez pursued his career.

After graduating from college, Vasquez went to Manila and worked for 10 years as sales representative of a fertilizer and pesticide company.

He saved all the money he got from company incentives, such as commissions and bonuses, for his wife and children.

Unfortunately, Vasquez lost his job when the firm downsized its sales. He decided his luck as a passenger jeepney driver for six months.

"As a driver, I had so much difficulties figuring out how to make both ends meet to support my family's needs," he related.

What made life even more difficult for Vasquez was that he had with sinusitis. He said his left lung was compressed in 1995 because of a really bad sickness.

"Armed with my measly savings and background in agriculture, I decided to go back home and start farming in 1995," Vasquez said.

Back to farming

He started planting rice to half of the 1.6-hectare land his father was cultivating.

Fortunately, he was able to expand his rice field through an additional 2 hectares of land, which was mortgaged to him.

But despite having relatively good harvests, Vasquez found that high production costs actually killed his chances of earning more, especially since he had been using traditional farming practices.

"I was only harvesting 80 cavans per hectare, which was already good back then. But I really didn't know how to improve my farming practices," he said.

Vasquez began attending free seminars and training sessions held by the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Rice Research Institute and local government to equip himself with new farming technologies.

Soon enough, Vasquez learned about infused rice seed production, enabling him to produce his own seeds so he would not have to buy them.

The tool significantly cut down the production costs.

"By using my own quality seeds, I was able to sell my produce at a much higher price than my usual harvest," he said.

Add to that, Vasquez was one of the few farmers who took the chance on hybrid rice in 2003, saying that this "new technology would change a farmer's perception of rice planting."

Misses and failures

While he had his share of misses and failures in hybrid technology early on, Vasquez said he still firmly believed that the hybrid rice technology would help him increase both his yield and income.

Since then, his yield from the hybrid rice seed production and cultivation greatly improved.

Now, Vasquez gets an average net income of P50,000 a cropping season, or P100,000 a year.

Vasquez said this technology had given him an a yield of 180 cavans or 9 metric tons per hectare as compared to the 80-100 cavans (4-5 metric tons) they got from traditional rice varieties.

"Being one of the national hybrid rice winners of the DA gave me a chance to travel to different parts of the country to assist in informing the public on the benefits of using the hybrid rice technology," Vasquez said.

With his story, he said he wanted other farmers to know that with "hardwork and perseverance, they can achieve anything even with their socioeconomic or lesser circumstances."

On the average, Vasquez said he sells and delivers 2,000-2,500 kg bags every month directly to

BACK TO P1

Ford
WORLD-CLASS CELEBRATION
Commemorating
10 years and 50,000 world-class vehicles
exported from the Philippines.
A jubilant offer that comes only once in 10 years!
WORLD-CLASS CELEBRATION
MINIMUM OF
₱50,000
Present this coupon when buying a Ford Escape and choose one of the following:
₱50,000 worth of cash
₱50,000 trade-up allowance
₱50,000 markdown
₱50,000 worth of free
₱50,000 savings on
With a total of 50,000 world-class units exported and 10 years in the Philippines under its belt, Ford is pulling out all stops to celebrate! Hurry, this offer comes only once in 10 years! Call 889-FORD (3673) for more information. Promo runs from November 8 - 30, 2007.
Ford
ford.com.ph
Make Every Day Exciting
[Tagalog] Together SAMA-SAMA [Bahasa Melayu] We are welcome.
Maybank

INFOTECH

Turn to page BusiBriefs: expose it internationally courage in AMC Dallas, at 300 Theatres

Apple unleashes the next big cat

By Rajpal P. Saxena

IF APPLE COULD SING A tune to describe its newly launched operating system, the Mac OS X Leopard, its ex-kill range of Macs—iMacs, MacBook and iMac Pro—it would have to be Britney Spears' "Oops, I did it again!"

The company, known for consumer digital lifestyle products, has finally launched the most anticipated operating system (OS)—its ninth generation upgrade to the much praised and successful Mac OS X Tiger launched two years ago.

The Mac OS X Leopard has been described as the "most upgrade ever" it packs in of 300 new features that will surely make every Mac lover happier, and non-Mac users envious, according to Steven Jang, Apple's senior product marketing manager Asia Pacific region.

The top features of Mac's outer operating system include a "refrigerated" Finder, Stacks, Quick Look, Spaces, Time Machine and enhanced Mail and iChat.

The redesigned Finder lets users quickly browse and share files with multiple Macs. It also includes a Cover Flow similar to iTunes' interface which lets users see files on the Finder as they really look. You can also flip through the files to easily as flipping through album art in iTunes.

If you want to view the files you're flipping through, you can remove them from the Finder via the Quick Look feature, which literally gives a sneak peek of the entire content of files—even multiple-page documents, spreadsheets, PDFs, and videos—without opening them in the applications that created them.

The Stacks feature is a new way to easily access files from the Dock. Mac OS' graphical user interface (GUI) located below the screen used to feature's applications, and switch between running applications. Stacks helps users get fully organized in the former eliminates clutter on the desktop.

Simply drop your file folders in the Dock icon and instantaneously "stacks," in a lineup of contents in that folder, are flashed once you put the cursor on to that files folder icon. The clocks in lineup of contents, which have miniature representations of the actual files, can be arranged either in a grid view or list view.

Time Machine is for people who are lazy in backing up files which, statistically speaking, represent majority of computer users. This feature lets users easily back up all data on their Mac, find lost files, and even restore all of the software on their Mac.

"All you need to do is click the icon 'Time Machine' and the feature automatically keeps an up-to-date copy of everything on the Mac," says Sng. "To look for a lost or deleted file, you can manually set the timeline to get to the date so your the file you can retrieve now, or you can allow the Time Machine to do this process by clicking the arrow at the bottom of the screen and this brings you back to the date the file was saved or). And once you find the file, you just click Restore and the file is brought back to present time."

Spaces allows for groupings of applications so you several "virtual desktops," or desk spaces onscreen, which saves you easily switch to back and forth with a click of the mouse or keyboard.

For example, you can group in one desktop or "space" all the applications that you need for work and, on another desktop, all the applications that you use for internet, music and video.

Infact Web Internet has been streamlined to allow users to create "web apps" or icons of your favorite websites that you can put and activate on the desktop. Apple's Dashboard, which allows for miniature programs called "widgets" to be superimposed over the desktop. When activated, the Dashboard will fill your favorite widgets "files" onscreen.

Mail feature is greatly improved by allowing users to create interesting and fascinating e-mails with nice stationery designs and layouts. Pick your choice—greeting card, postcard, or glossy. Users however are restricted to use HTML. PC users will receive the e-mail of your wonderful greeting card.

Another noteworthy feature of the Mail is its ability to do notes or lists, which you can e-mail to your personal e-mail account or one of reminders. Mail also features data detection, which can send schedules and contact information to your e-mail, and sync them up with your iCal, or your calendar and address book.

iChat, like OS in many messaging features, has new elements, such as the iChat Theatre that allows users to share photos, videos, music and files.

"Collaborative work can be done between two parties with screen sharing capability of iChat," says Sng. "From your Mac, you can actually get the other party's Mac screen, move around and launch applications on his desktop and even edit his files or documents. You can have full control of the other party's screen."

With the improved iChat, a user can also change the background of the chat's boat where the chat is being done with the Backdrop feature. Other additions include enhancements of the Spotlight, the powerful Mac OS tool to locate anything stored in Tiger which now can search not only files on one Mac but in several Macs in a network.

The latest Bootcamp software, which allows for the installation and running of Windows OS and applications in a Mac system, now comes with the Leopard package, which is expected soon to Mac users who will want to dabble in a Windows setup.

Leopard's overall appearance is a departure from Tiger's look in the Blue screen has been replaced by a subdued silver) midnight sky appearance. The new desktop also hosts a screen capture feature that allows you to shoot 30 frames. This look of Leopard extends to all applications, and every window has a consistent design theme, with colors applications more distinct with shadows.

Leopard, an Open Based UNIX 03 registered product on the Intel platforms, supports 64-bit applications (Xserve, PG and Intel or with three specs: Intel, Power PC G5, Power PC G4 (867 MHz), 512 MB memory, DVD drive for installation, and 9 GB free space. The ultimate version retails at $P3,499, and the family pack at P4,999.

Effective Oct. 26, when the Leopard debuted worldwide, critics are sure to say that this is the best OS in the market today, upon seeing a database user-friendly more OS the Windows Vista.

THE REDESIGNED Finder includes a Cover Flow, which lets users flip through files as easily as they flip through album art.

YOU may create e-mail using nice stationery designs.

THE ALL New Yahoo! Mail interface lets users create, send and receive text messages without leaving the e-mail client.

Text through Yahoo! Mail for free!

By Rica T. Chancoco

NEED TO SEND AND RECEIVE TEXT messages for free?

Why not try Yahoo! Mail?

Internet search giant Yahoo!, which is ringing the Mobile Asia Congress in China next week, has launched Yahoo! Mail to allow users to send free messages to Smart or Globe subscribers.

Simply upgrade your Yahoo! Mail Classic to the new Yahoo! Mail. Compose a new e-mail, tag it as "text message" and then type in the recipient's mobile number where the e-mail address used to be. The recipient receives the message almost as soon as you click on the "Send" button.

The service will surely bring more and "free" savings to 14 million Filipinos using the Internet, 40 percent of whom are Yahoo! e-mail.

"We are initially offering this service to only four markets: the Philippines, Canada, USA and India," said Ana Asensio-Yu, Yahoo! senior director of business development. "There is no doubt that the Philippines is the SMS capital of the world, with more than 500 million text messages being sent every day. Yahoo! knows the need to stay than SMS has in communication in developing Filipinos."

Soon, Yahoo! Mail will be launched in 25 markets around the world. Asensio-Yu said the launch in each market is subject to law enforcement agencies' requirements.

Both Smart and Globe welcomed the service, saying it gives instant promotion and their respective subscribers extensive choices.

"There are already a number of services where all networks can participate," said Nonoy Morelos on behalf of Chief Commissioner Ronie Ike. "Yahoo has a huge user base who at no longer to be cell phone users. So, this is a case where that (cross-carrier) makes sense."

Also, Globe spokesperson Anjoy Campos said Yahoo! has been providing a "good service for [Globe] subscribers."

"How nice we pleasured the partnership with Yahoo!, we have been very pleased with the results," Campos added.

To prevent spam, the recipient of a Yahoo! Mail SMS message is asked whether he wants to receive the new Yahoo! text-based messages. Yahoo! Mail users can only send four text messages for every one month reply. In addition, Yahoo! Mail users cannot send to multiple recipients at the same time because such would not have to reply before receiving any more messages.

All messages going in and out of Yahoo! Mail are free. There is charge of 140+ characters per message. But it costs P2 for Smart users and P2.50 for Globe users to reply.

Aside from messaging to mobile, the new Yahoo! Mail allows users to send instant files, reply to any contact who is online, either by using Yahoo! Mail or Yahoo! Messenger.

Hitachi's CinemaStar plays lead role in digital video recorders

DIGITAL MOVIES, THE newest members of Hitachi GST's CinemaStar™ line of hard drives are ready for "their close-up."

Hitachi is offering multiple form factors to address a wide variety of needs in the growing consumer electronics market. A 3.5-inch drive with capacities of up to 500 gigabytes (GB) provides industry-best performance, while the more compact 2.5-inch drive is suited for use in desk set-top boxes and portable digital video devices. Both are based on a design called reportedly for the unique demands of recording and playback of video content.

The abundance of digital video has been fueling consumer demand for digital video recorders (DVRs) with more storage capacity and slim, space-saving designs. The 2.5-inch CinemaStar drive, PTS500 are the latest in a long line of Hitachi drives, especially made to home entertainment applications.

The 2.5-inch CinemaStar C5K250 is designed to meet the needs of consumers who want access to video content recording and playback features in small form factors. The drive uses the same GreenPower™ technology as its larger 3.5-inch CinemaStar "sibling," but it comes smaller in size, with less power requirement and quiet acoustics. It has a capacity of up to 250 GB.

The Hitachi CinemaStar C5K250 utilizes current-of-lower power usage without compromising the reliability digital video experience that people expect. The drive is designed to switch to a 0.35 watt idle power mode if recording or playback pauses for longer periods. The CinemaStar C5K250's low-power profile also means the drive requires smaller power supplies and less cooling, which may help extend the life of the hard drive, the host product, as well as the surrounding devices in a typical entertainment cabinet.

The 3.5-inch CinemaStar PTS500 is a family of drives designed to provide high capacity and high performance for Full Service set-top boxes or DVRs with multi-streaming functionality.

This family of drives makes it possible for DVR manufacturers to broaden their product offerings to cover the entire spectrum of consumer needs, from entry-level capacity high performance multi-function systems to more economical units. The flexibility allows consumer electronics developers to select the CinemaStar drive that meets the cost and product capacity requirements of their customer product portfolio. The new drives are based on Hitachi's recently introduced Deskstar P7K500, which are extremely fast and capture transaction.

It offers a special feature called ShockGuard, which allows for data recovery procedures to be defined differently for multiple partitions in the same drive. This means, retrieval system data can be differentiated from time critical video content, which may not require as many retransmit data recovery measures.

With a capacity of 500 GB, the CinemaStar PTS500 can store up to 178 movies, 125,000 four-minute songs and 250 video games.

Because AV systems play and record streams of data, they place very different demands on a hard drive than those found in traditional IT and computing applications. If the stream is interrupted, as it may result in missing audio or video information, resulting in unacceptable delay. These issues are addressed by CinemaStar C5K250 and PTS500 drives from Hitachi's patented and innovative GreenPower drive technology, which delivers an integrated set of features and functions that enable hard disk drives to perform optimally in audio/video (AV) applications.

Hitachi GST's consumer-oriented apps combine a host device to connect to the drive's consumer electronics. This feature helps the drive to capture video data streams on a command by command basis, allowing consumers to mix different AV and IT applications in the same platform.

The new drive-based hard drives bring together a number of consumer electronics special features and benefits, including:

+ Smart Command Transport and adaptive error recovery for optimized video streaming and performance;

—*AV Timing* allows manufacturers to configure unique data recovery procedures to help ensure uninterrupted video playback;

—Silent seek acoustics for low-noise quiet operation;

—Advanced power management features enable the drives to run cooler and use less power;

—Rear side up times provide efficient read-writing/writing of data during digital video recording and playback.

—Choice of either Parallel ATA or Serial ATA interfaces for ease of design flexibility.

Is outsourcing growth tapering off?

IN ITS 2006 GLOBAL IT OUTSOURCING Study, Chicago-based Diamond Management and Technology Consultants confirmed reports that the Information Technology Outsourcing (ITO) boom "appears to be over."

At the recently concluded MAP ITO Conference, Brian Simpkowsky, a principal of the firm and co-author of the study, attributed the effects the slowdown in spending ITO that had on BPO as he previewed Diamond's 2007 Outsourcing Study results that are due this year.

One of the major themes of Simpkowsky's presentation was that BPO (business process outsourcing) is experiencing the same growing pains as ITO had faced before, and has not learned enough from the ITO experience. In the 2006 study, the following reasons were given for the apparent slowdown in ITO:

- Buyers erroneously outsourced commodity activities which, in hindsight, spread out to be "core functions" which they later decided to do in house;
- Providers were promised and under delivered; and
- The complexity of managing the cost associated functions and measuring their effects far outweighed their benefits.

To fully appreciate these observations, and in order to make use of past outsourcing experience to improve strategic choices for both ITO and BPO in the future, it is necessary to go beyond the data and to examine the underlying organizational dynamics.

Unrealized expectations

Diamond's annual outsourcing study, which this year includes a report on both BPO and ITO, compares the expectations and perspectives of executives who buy and provide outsourcing services.

Many reasons were given for the apparent rising in ITO expansion and stagnant BPO adoption, but one in particular is critical: Unrealized expectations on the part of both providers and buyers.

One can think of many reasons why outcomes may significantly differ from expectations.

To begin with, buyers are probably disappointed because they expected immediate results. Considering the complexity of most of today's business operations, procedural changes initiated in any part of the business are bound to have a significant disruptive effect not only on the functions in question but also on the total operation.

So putting the imported set of procedures in place takes time and involves a tedious learning process. The effects, too, take time to work themselves out.

MAPping the Future

Nicerio S. Poblador

Moreover, the ultimate outcome of the change becomes increasingly difficult from initial expectations and becomes more nebulous due to continuously changing parameters. Because of continuous change, the newly installed solution which was designed to solve a problem may no longer apply due to the continuous state of flux and changing directions.

At the end of the year, what can be observed are not the final outcomes of the project but a process that is still unfolding.

One further reason that buyers tend to be disappointed with outsourcing initiatives is that these are often measured in terms of metrics that are applicable only to the process or technology being outsourced and not to the business operation as a whole.

For example, the most frequently mentioned reason for BPO is cost reduction. Cost in these terms is tied to the cost of the process in question. However, changes in procedures to any isolated part of business operations are bound to have "reversal" effects on other facets of the business.

All things considered, any outgoing cost not reduction in the process itself may turn out to be quite major after all if benefits elsewhere in the organization are factored in. Or conversely, a significant cost reduction in the process may conceal additional costs incurred in the larger system.

In sum, measuring results is an easy matter.

What can be done?

One probable reason for these disappointing results is that the design and implementation of "one size fits all" solutions. In today's knowledge driven business environment, each potential sourcing driver is unique and faces equally unique problems.

Unique problems require unique solutions. The obvious approach is to design and put in place solutions that are custom-tailored to the needs of users. In order to do so, however, companies must look inside themselves and think about how outsourcing can be used as a strategic lever to empower and help drive corporate objectives.

As Temperosky puts it, "exploiting BPO without a strategy is like driving without a destination. Furthermore, outsourcing as a stand-alone initiative will leave opportunities on the table, and must be considered as part of a larger organizational change to be optimally successful."

Customization a la Dell is not enough. These customized solutions must be implemented not in one full swoop but in small, gradual increments over relatively long stretches of time.

A more appropriate change model is one that involves a continuous collaborative relationship between clients and consultant, and requires an uninterrupted exchange of insights and information, such an arrangement involves mutual learning and an open sharing of each other's business models in the partnership.

In such a continuing collaborative enterprise, the solutions themselves evolve along with the problems.

The valuable comments of Brian Temperosky of Diamond Consulting and of Fred Ayala of Unitel are gratefully acknowledged.

(The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an academic and a knowledge management consultant. He is the author of the book "STRATEGY AMMUNITION: Why Today's Business Models Fail to Deliver." Feedback at mapsor@globelines.com.ph)

GOINGS-ON

Watson Wyatt forum offers CEOs strategies to keep key execs

BEST PUT the seeming abundance of qualified manpower in the Philippines, multinational and local companies operating here are significantly affected by the global battle to recruit and keep talent. Valuable global insights, experiences and solutions in the area for talent will be shared by Watson Wyatt Asia Pacific Human Capital Group practice leader Frank Bruni during his a breakfast forum for CEOs on Nov. 16 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The event is being organized by Watson Wyatt in line with its mission to update clients and top business leaders with the latest trends and studies in recruitment and human resources, according to James Klatt, managing consultant of Watson Wyatt. "The forum should interest business executives, captains of industry and human resources practitioners who are facing serious human capital challenges occasioned by the advent of the Filipino professionals."

Remington is frequently invited as a speaker in regional business conferences where he often discusses his areas of expertise—Strategic Rewards Management. He has worked with leading business organizations in Europe, Asia and Australia.

Online contest gives students first-hand feel of the stock market

A LURE with its mission to break ice the task of participants in the Philippine stock market through the rules-set, leading online brokerage firm COL Financial has partnered with the Philippine Stock Exchange to sponsor the 2nd PSE-COLonline MBA Stock Market Investment Challenge. The contest begins Nov. 19, 2007.

Graduate business students are invited to compete in buying and trading stocks and manage a virtual portfolio by using PSE's On-line Stock Trading Game. The PSE educational tool mimics the workings of the actual stock market and allows students to experience firsthand what it is like to trade online in the source.

Conrado Bate, president of COLonline, says, "We are inviting all graduate school students to sign up and participate in this weekend challenge so that they can experience first-hand what it's like to trade in the Philippine stock market and at the same time, they can practice their investment theories in the source."

Registration period is ongoing until Nov. 30. The tournament runs for around 12 weeks, from Nov. 19, 2007 to Feb. 15, 2008. Awarding ceremonies will be held. All which will be attended by senior officials from the PSE and COLonline.

All graduate school students are encouraged to join the 2nd PSE-COLonline MBA Stock Market Investment Challenge. Simply logging on to www.pse.com.ph, www.colsecurities.com or call COLonline's Customer Relations at 5-333-777.

Cornell Club of the Philippines marks 95 years

THE CORNELL Club of the Philippines founded by the president Congressman Martin Romualdez celebrates its 95th Anniversary on Nov. 17 at The Manila Golf Club, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The celebration will also be a fund raising event for the benefit of Bayanihan Kalinga, all Cornell University Alumni and their sponsors are invited to attend.

The registration starts at 7p.m. For more information, please contact Rosanna Cruciousa at 752-1878 or e-mail cornellclubphilippines@hotmail.com

Bluewater Day Spa ties up with Digital Image

BLUEWATER Day Spa and Digital Image recently inked a partnership that will give consumers a spa treatment with the latest digital gadget.

For every purchase of Nikon or Aiggo digital camera, the buyer gets a 5 percent discount on Bluewater Day Spa's body treatments. For Bluewater Day Spa member-shop cardholders, they can get a 5 percent discount when they buy at any Digital Image outlets or SM Malls.

"Digital gadgetry and its ensuing play look totally disparate entities but that is not entirely true. Success-oriented young individuals who want the best results in whatever endeavors they are in are also those that seek affordable pampering."

"These individuals who enjoy the best modern equipment and services that take pleasure in the latest excellent mind and body treatments," says Jenny Lim, manager of Bluewater Day Spa Makati.

Puno new Geograce Resources chair

MINING firm Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. recently announced the election of lawyer Renato Puno as its new chair of the board. Puno was also elected director of the Geograce board replacing Jose Dalupan.

Puno is the managing partner of the Tañada, Puno and Buenaventura law offices.

He was formerly deputy managing partner of the Puno and Puno law offices, which was founded by his father, former Justice Florentino Puno.

Geograce president Jerry Angeles said Puno's entry took place amid the mining company's continuing expansion program.

The firm raised some P365 million from a stock rights offer in May this year, with the proceeds being used for expanded exploration activities.

Following the stock rights offer, Geograce's market capitalization stood at $711 million.

Back to farming

From page B1-1

ent-consultant or to government institutions, subdivisions, and private corporations in Metro Manila, Bangsamoro, La Union, Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija and Baguio.

Owing to increase in his sales, Vasquez has been dubbed the "hybrid rice" in their place.

He now owns a 10-ha farm planted to hybrid rice and has 50 ha contract growing of hybrid rice, which yields an average of 160-180 cavans/ha.

As a source of alternative income, he also engaged in backyard farming.

Help for harvesters

NIA, his earnings from hybrid rice, Vasquez proudly said he was able to improve his house, bought additional agricultural lands including the 1.5-ha that his father was tilling, two units of truck, and retailer for fuel and rice.

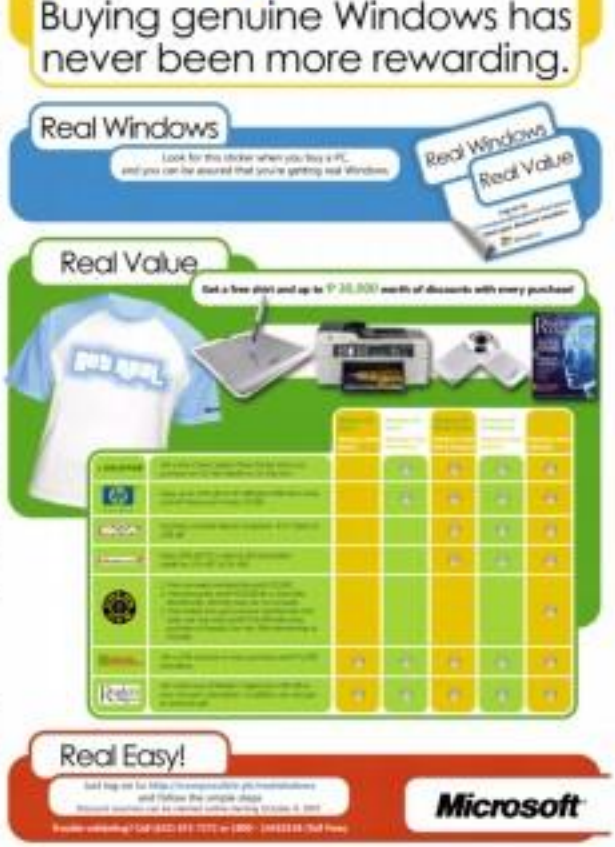
Now, he can even afford to send his children to private schools.

Vasquez added that he was able to help his hometown with the efforts had started through his own firm, NJV Vasquez Enterprises.

His wife, meanwhile, assists in the day-to-day operations by acting as the finance manager of their company.

Despite his unrelated leg, Vasquez said he continues to work very hard in improving his business and in promoting the hybrid rice technology.

He added that one is recognition of its potential in raising farmers' productivity and income.



GE Money Bank

A Savings Bank

DEPOSITS • SME LOANS • CONSUMER LOANS

Free GE Profile™ Ref or Microwave when you avail of a Home Loan

Apply for a GE Money Bank Home Loan from October 1 to December 31, 2007 and get a free GE Profile™ Refrigerator for every approved and availed loan of P1.5 million and above or a GE Microwave Oven for every approved and availed loan of P1.0 million to less than P1.5 million.

Call us at (02) 721 8000
or visit participating branches

GE imagination at work

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

RAY

TOYOTA iQ

HONDA

Fanciful, fun and essentially Japanese

By Nonoi M. Domingo

TO THE UNINITIATED and those simply curious, the 40th Tokyo Motor Show (TMS) that ended on Nov. 11 opened a world of wonder, showcasing vehicles created in eye-catching colors, crafted with barely comprehensible technologies.

To those more familiar with the automotive world, the show offered a fantasque of the shape transportation would take in the not-so-near future.

But to the timid aficionado, the exhibit evoked intense passion for machines that have defined our freedom of mobility.

Business reporter was able to visit TMS 2007 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, Japan, and took in the sights and sounds of vehicles that were fanciful, fun and essentially Japanese. It was all in all, the land of sound and fun.

With the theme "Catch the Wave, Touch the Future," the show was abloat with mechanoids coined for the next generation vehicles—hybrid systems, electric/battery operated and clean diesel engines.

Toyota Motor Co. says that its concept car, the iRA, explores the relationship between vehicles and people in the 21st century.

Touted as a vehicle that "actually improves one's health," the iRA promises serene, stress-free living with an interior made for this purpose, using natural textiles, organic wood and bamboo.

Through the iRA, Toyota expresses its belief that future vehicles will embody not only values created to combine safe convenience, but also spiritual breath and harmonious, sustainable relationship between society and nature.

Toyota hinted the iRA's creation in the image of the deep-rooted, self-growing (through) cypress tree. The car windows are tinted green and made all the way to the floor of the car, allowing the occupant to appreciate the forests by his window.

The car also has a "mood adjust" steering control that displays the driver's psychological state as read by sensors which detects the motorist's heartbeat.

Cajoling an urban robotic duo dubbed as a "delightful Transporoid," cute-as-a-bug's-button chats driving can bring you good karma.

Another favorite at the show is Honda Motor Co.'s concept car Puyo, whose name is a Japanese onomatopoeia, expressing the sensation of touching the vehicle's soft body.

The Puyo is meant to convey a warm, friendly impression, and represents clean, safe and fun use in a sustainable people-friendly environment.

The exterior is described as a "breathable soft bear" with a body made of soft and luminescent materials—warm points for safety—while the interior suggests a "valley" and transparent fuel.

Lots of names in also taken into account in the Puyo runs on fuel cell technology.

Here on the like is Suzuki Motor Corp.'s Twin—a one-person vehicle that is based on a concept of "friendly" mobility as it moves at low speeds on footpaths and inside buildings.

The Twin is accessible even for people who cannot drive or don't own and can be paired with related systems, turning it into more dynamic vehicles.

Yet, like Subaru's and Subaru, the Puyo can share with the Suzuki's SAE interior based code to form an association. The SAE is had formal shaped module that holds up to two Puyo.

The Puyo can also couple with the SAE unit and now uses a spare car or an SAE unit to become a speed boat.

There there's Nissan Motor Co.'s Pivo, also a single-seat gig but one that can be used in the road.

The second generation Pivo has a robotic interface that can monitor the driver's emotions and some of

PIVO

the verbal inflexion.

To help the driver against road rage, the robot on the dash board can tell jokes or perk up a gloomy driver or calm down an angry one. The motorist's emotions are monitored through his or her facial expression and conversation. The probably should not tell the robot to jokes are coming or it would drink one excess.

The cute-looking robot would also advise the person on the seamless to take a break if judging from the rate of blinking, the motorist is drowsy or fatigued.

Nissan says the Pivo2 instills in the driver a feeling of affection and trust for the car. More importantly, that little guy who's watching you can help you drive with a positive frame of mind, reducing the risk of road accidents.

Pivo2 runs on a compact lithium-ion battery or fuel the size of conventional batteries—part of Nissan's efforts to mainstream electric vehicles by developing cars that don't take too much space and charge fast.

Even if this is what you call a midnight snack, we'll still insure you.

Embrace

It's a life insurance policy with lots of investment offerings.

Finally, a portion of your premium is invested in managed funds, giving you an easier way to optimize your money's potential for growth.

Pioneer subject to policy conditions. You may automatically get an insurance policy - because Pioneer cares enough to offer thousands thousands of its Applicant (AAAs). We'll accept you as long as you're 18 years old or younger.

That means we don't investigate on pre-existing health conditions.

Please see your Pioneer Financial Advisor today. Or call +63 2 812 7777 and see what more you can get from our Embrace.

PIONEER
LIFE and more matters
+63 2 812 7777

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pe_ppp@inquirer.com.ph
ppp.inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Arias Espinosa

Cisco Networking Academy continues to produce world-class IT professionals

DRIVEN BY INCREASING DEMAND FOR highly trained IT professionals, Cisco recently embarked in recruitment to produce top-level Cisco IT professionals through its Cisco Networking Academy.

This recruitment includes an evaluation of the core Networking Academy curriculum to keep pace with the swiftly changing requirements of an increasingly connected world and the growing demand for a technically skilled workforce in a competitive global marketplace. These new changes are the direct result of the Networking Academy's increased focus on providing students the skills they need to pursue rewarding IT careers in business-critical positions and industries ranging from technology and finance to medicine and entertainment.

According to a region-wide study conducted by research firm International Data Corp. (IDC), there will be a shortage of 896,000 skilled networking professionals in Asia-Pacific by 2009 and the Philippines specifically has a shortage of about 7,000 skilled networking professionals currently, rising to 2,000 in 2009, representing a projected annual growth rate pegged 23 percent.

Commissioned by Cisco, the survey involved more than 1,000 middle to senior management respondents from 11 countries in Asia Pacific. A key objective of the study was to measure the skills demand and supply gap for networking technology competency. The gap refers to having a shortage of people with required networking skills to support business functions.

The comprehensive Cisco Networking Academy enables the students to learn networking technologies from basic concepts to actual design implementation. It gives the student proper industrial know-how of a network infrastructure, its capabilities and scalability.

The Philippines is considered a great source of world-class IT professionals. Filipinos are hardworking, adaptable and highly trainable, qualities that make them ideal employees in any workplace.

"We believe the Philippines can now also be the regional center of excellence for IT skills. Through our program, we save our students, our future workforce, such competencies demanded by the local and international IT industry. The Networking Academy curriculum is frequently updated to meet the fast changing technologies in networking" said Liechi Bolden, country manager for Cisco Philippines.

The Cisco Networking Academy is a partnership between Cisco Systems, education, business, government and community-based unions around the world, aimed at nurturing IT professionals. There are currently over 10,000 Academies in 164 countries around the world; among which, over 1,000 Academies are located in 25-countries in Asia Pacific.

Since the program's inception in the Philippines in 1998, over 136,000 students have been trained by more than 600 instructors in 143 Cisco Academies in the country. A number of students have found successful employment in big multi-national companies here and abroad.

"A competent and sufficient information technology workforce is the most precious asset of the Philippines as an information society. Government, educational bodies and society in general have the responsibility to promote technology and telecommunications to school leaving, earning and rewarding career choices," said Bolden.

For more information about the Cisco Networking Academy Program, visit http://www.cisco.com/go/netacad.

RP's 1ST TELECOM CO-BRAND PLATINUM CARD

MasterCard scores yet again as the preferred payment brand of choice with the launch of the Philippines' first telecom co-brand platinum card by leading service provider Smart and Globe. At 6½, one of the country's leading full-service banks. The Smart Infinite MasterCard offers a world of infinite possibilities of innovation and privilege with premium benefits like supreme credit limit, access to international airport lounges, travel and asset insurance and free assistance for lifestyle needs and card-related emergencies. Photo shows Smart MC cardmember Cecilia Judith Tiongco and Peter Villa-Real, BDO's Betty Tan-Antonio, Smart Infinity's Julia Cruz-Leviste and Smart's Dante Marpia.

MANILABANK
TRUST BUILDER NATIONWIDE BANK

October 3, 2007

NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

DEAR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be informed that a special stockholders' meeting of the Corporation will be held on **November 26, 2007, Monday at 10:00 A.M.** 7th Floor Manilabank Building, 8772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, to pass upon the following:

AGENDA

1. Proof of Notice and Certification of Quorum
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on July 04, 2007
3. Transfer/Assignment of Substantially All of the Assets and Liabilities, including Subsidiary Business and Licenses, of the corporation to China Banking Corporation
4. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation and the By-Laws, specifically their Capitalization Provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, changing its corporate name to "China Bank Savings, Inc."
5. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting

In case you cannot attend the meeting in person and you wish to be represented thereat, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a proxy instrument to the Office of the Secretary, 8th Floor, Manila Bank Bldg., 8772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 2:00 p.m. of November 21, 2007 in accordance with the By-Laws.

Only stockholders of record as of August 31, 2007 shall be entitled to vote and accordingly, the stock and transfer book will be closed from November 14, 2007 until the close of the business on November 23, 2007.

EDGAR F. DUNLAO
Corporate Secretary

An exclusive privilege for The Legend Villas family member

THE LEGEND VILLAS FAMILY CLUB CARD IS ALREADY AVAILABLE offering great privileges for its members. The family club members gets certification of two complimentary Superior Room accommodation with breakfast for two, free upgrade vouchers of the 8th Level Villa Suite Deluxe, room upgrade vouchers upon availing of any room, (on complimentary basis only), 20 percent off on "las" personal, 20 percent discount on total food and beverage bills whether dining alone or with guests at the Lola Maria Coffee Shop, 50 percent off on Buffet Breakfast from 6:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., 25 percent off on any banquet venue functions on total food and beverage revenue, Kids below 7 years are free of charge on food and accommodations. What's more, the principal member gets a complimentary card for free. The supplementary cardholder gets 20 percent off on total food and beverage bill while they dine at Lola Maria Coffee Shop. Those who want to be a family club member, can avail these privileges for only P6,200. The Legend Villas is located along Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong. Very near the famous shopping malls of Robinson's and SM Megamall. The hotel boasts of 125 room accommodations, 13 function rooms and 2 ballrooms. The swimming pool, gymnasium are available (except for access to relaxation. The Lola Maria Coffee Shop located near the lobby serves sumptuous and tasty Filipino dishes. To avail of the membership, please call 886-0141, 886-1582 or 886-4648.

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY

INVITATION TO BID AND TO SUBMIT OFFER TO NEGOTIATE

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders/offerors to participate in the March 2008 (2nd) CBP on an "**as-is, where-is**" basis of the following properties:

Location of Property	Area (sqm)	Floor Price (Php)
I. SECOND OFFERING - SALE		
1. Barbosa, Imelda City, Pampanga *	1,241	1,490,000
2. Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija *	1,000	1,710,000
3. Cubao, Quezon City *	1,000	1,750,000
4. Gapan, Nueva Ecija *	2,351	1,763,250
5. Pasay City *	200 / 200	1,250,000
6. San Miguel, Bulacan, Bulacan	500	2,125,000
7. San Miguel, Bulacan, Bulacan	500	2,125,000
8. San Miguel, Bulacan, Bulacan	1,000	4,250,000
9. San Miguel, Bulacan, Bulacan	1,000	4,250,000
10. San Miguel, Bulacan, Bulacan	1,000	1,750,000
11. San Pedro, Bulacan, Bulacan	1,000	1,750,000
12. Tarlac City *	1,476	1,291,500
II. SECOND OFFERING - LEASE		
1. Bonifacio, Tondo, Manila	514	18,000/mo. 1 year lease
III. NEGOTIATED SALE		
1. Brgy. No. 5, Cagayan de Oro City *	1,761	2,201,000
2. San Jose, Malolos, Bulacan *	10,000	1,750,000
3. Boulevard, Tondo, Manila	514	1,800,000
4. Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga *	1,351	1,013,250
5. Gapan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga *	1,000	750,000
6. Malolos, Bulacan, Bulacan *	2,470	864,500
7. Malolos, Bulacan, Bulacan *	2,470	864,500
8. Malolos, Bulacan, Bulacan *	2,470	864,500
9. Malolos, Bulacan, Bulacan *	2,470	2,345,000
10. Malolos, Bulacan, Bulacan *	2,470	2,345,000
11. Tarlac, Tarlac City *	1,000	1,000,000
12. Tarlac, Tarlac City	523	784,500
13. Sto. Tomas, Batangas *	1,000	1,000,000
14. Sto. Tomas, Batangas *	1,000	1,000,000
15. Sto. Tomas, Batangas *	1,000	1,000,000
16. Sto. Tomas, Batangas *	1,000	1,000,000
17. Pasonanca, Cagayan de Oro *	1,000	1,000,000
18. Pasonanca, Cagayan de Oro *	1,000	1,000,000
19. Tagbilaran, Bohol *	1,000	1,000,000
20. Tagbilaran, Bohol *	1,477	1,477,000
21. Tagbilaran, Bohol *	1,477	1,477,000
22. Nichols Field, Talisay, Negros Occ. *	396	396,000
23. Cotabato, Cotabato City	1,000	1,000,000
IV. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE		
1. Brgy. San Jose, Batangas	2,900	120,000/mo. 1 year lease
V. NEGOTIATED SALE or LEASE		Sale (PHP) / Lease (PHP)
1. Mangan, Isabela, Basilan	884,197	61,892,000 / 4,419,000/mo. 1 year lease
2. PNOC Housing Component also open to Joint Venture (Sec.)	99,563	151,500,000 / 479,167/mo. 1 year lease

* with mineral deposits • with mineral deposits (G) To your option the properties are leased through negotiation

Interested bidders may obtain the Bidding/Registration Guidelines, Terms and Conditions may be secured from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2/F Eastern Star Bldg., PNOC Bldg. I, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, from **Mon. to Fri.** 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM upon payment of Non-Refundable Fee of P1,000.00 per set of bid documents. The participating contractors and the sales bidding shall be conducted on **Mon. 26, 2007 (2:00pm)** and **Dec. 10, 2007 (2:00pm)**, respectively at the 6/F PNOC-Bldg. II.

The bid **Bond Validity of PNOC Bonds Housing**, interested parties shall submit the required Eligibility Documents. Eligible offerors shall be required to pay a non-refundable amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) payable to PNOC at the time of award.

Award of the aforementioned parcels of the above properties shall be based on the **BEST BID OFFER** received from the bidders/offerors.

The successful bidder/offeror shall be required to pay the purchase price within sixty (60) days from the date of award. The winning bidder/offeror upon receipt of the Notice of Award and after making full payment, shall take possession of the property without awaiting the execution of Deed of Sale. Interested bidders are required not awaiting holidays, the bidding activities shall be held on the next working day. PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bids/offers or to waive any formality therein and/or to accept any such bid/offer or portion thereof as may be advantageous to PNOC. For inquiries, please call tel. nos. 815-9577 or 815-9578 loc. 2202 or 2206 or telefax no. 817-1620/840-2564.

(Sgd.) BETTY BERNARDITA R. OCAMPO
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Liquidation
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

Fly high with the Unionbank-powered Seair Visa Credit Card

READY, SET, AIRLINE OFFERING the fastest flights to Boracay and most flights to Palawan has partnered with Unionbank to launch Seair Visa Credit Card, a lifestyle and vacation card with exclusive privileges.

With Seair Visa Credit Card, cardholders may fly for free to the Philippines' most popular vacation spots via Seair. Every P40 spending of Seair Visa cardholders charged to their card earns them Privilege Points. Cardholders also earn double points when they buy their Seair tickets at least tailoring offices using their card. These privilege points can be converted to free airfare and travel packages.

What's more? Seair Visa Credit Card is designed with a rewards redemption fast track option. Cardholders need to meet only a minimum number of points and charge the remaining cash requirement to their Seair Visa credit card and they're off to their dream vacation!

And not only that, cardholders get as much as 10 percent discount on air fare on non-peak period and 20 percent discount on peak season* (simply on black out dates) when they redeem their points at Seair ticketing offices, while earning points on these purchases.

And because Seair Visa is a vacation and lifestyle credit card, cardholders enjoy privilege discounts from resorts and hotel partners from their favorite restaurant spots, and for international trips, a free access to the Club Manila airport lounge in NAIA Terminal 3 where they can indulge their palates in a gourmet selection of soup, sandwiches and a variety of refreshments and liquor. Because Seair Visa Credit Card is vacation ready, it also encourages cardholders to call the Seair Travel Concierge to book their plane tickets or resort. And while at it, cardholders may also inquire on the specialized special travel installments at low, fixed interest.

Lastly, as a Unionbank Credit Card, Seair Visa card holders also enjoy these fully loaded benefits: worldwide acceptance, a 24-hour Customer Service, loanes and flexible payment terms, low interest conversions, Cyberstatement, numerous payment channels and a 0 percent installment program.

The Seair Visa is powered by Unionbank. Unionbank Credit Cards is the leader in co-brand and affinity credit card development. To date, it has more than 11 co-brand and affinity credit cards in partnership with retail, educational, medical, and financial and service institutions. Seair Visa Credit Card is Unionbank's first airline co-brand card. To apply for a Seair Visa Credit Card, please call 84186 (for Metro Manila) and (toll-free 1 800 1800 2277 (outside Metro Manila).

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
Securities and Exchange Commission
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

INVITATION TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee for IT Goods and Services (BAC-IT), invites qualified local bidders to bid for IT Goods and Services for SEC servers and network equipment with an Approved Budget Contract (ABC) of P5,000,000.00. Project Duration is for one (1) year.

Source of Funds: BB 2007

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the bidders starting 12 November to 30 November 2007 from the MIS Division-Secretariat, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per set of bid documents. For further details, you may contact Ms. Ma.O. Polpoche, Ms. Theresa Ibanez or Tel. No. 727-9854.

Pre-bid Conference will be on 22 November 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the SEC Conference Room, 7th floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for the submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on 11 December 2007, 2:30 p.m. at the SEC Conference Room, 7th floor, SEC Building. Late/incomplete bid envelopes shall not be opened. It is the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening.

Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern the bidding and performance guidelines to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post-Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC-I reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s and to waive any irregularities in the bidding. Bidders shall be allowed the option to submit the lowest proposal as evaluated in most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC-I also reserves no obligation whatsoever to corporations or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of its bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE P. AQUINO
Chairman, BAC-IT

Creating success stories one child at a time

THE CLASSROOM IS DEMANDING. IT moves at a steady pace. It is no wonder some students miss fundamentals or concepts especially when a teacher simply can't put the class on 'hold' to attend to individual deficiencies.

Particularly in the areas of reading and math, early skill acquisition and retention is a must. Failure to learn these core is a specialized skill building process. Gaps in this process, for whatever reason they occur, simply can impede mastery of these skills, according to Chad Schwartz, vice president of Tutoring Club, one of America's pre-eminent academic support franchisors.

Particularly in the areas of reading and math, early skill acquisition and retention is a must. Failure to learn these core is a specialized skill building process. Gaps in this process, for whatever reason they occur, simply can impede mastery of these skills, according to Chad Schwartz, vice president of Tutoring Club, one of America's pre-eminent academic support franchisors.

According to Schwartz, the following are the most common signs that academic issues exist:

- Lack of motivation. A clear sign that the assigned tasks are either too difficult or that the requisite skills to accomplish them are lacking.
- Homework frustration. Helping a child complete his or her homework rather than identifying the causes of the frustration and strengthening the learning skills will not help a child become a successful learner.
- Inappropriate classroom behavior. Children who "act up" in class may be hiding deeper problems and could be masking gaps in academic skill building.
- Weak math skills. Contrary to the belief of some parents, there is no "math gene." Success in math is based largely upon mastery of basic skills - and the critical period for establishing that foundation is between 1st and 6th grade.
- Inability to read at grade level. "The foundation for reading skills is laid down from kindergarten to 3rd grade," notes Schwartz. "If that foundation is shaky, it can affect virtually every other learning skill that children need to acquire."

Recently having opened in Cle Philippines, the Tutoring Club has been making significant progress in greatly advancing comprehensive improvement among learners. To date, Tutoring Club, which has been in operation in the United States for 25 years, is the only such service that offers an impressive guarantee of raising a child's academic skills to a full year level, in only 12 hours.

Through a time-tested system which focuses on developing learning skills, state-of-the-art technology, and highly-skilled professionals, local children have been reaping the benefits of the franchisor's close advantages. Particularly this means are a few cases where children are having to catch up on 2 or more year's deficit in math skills. One such child has shown marked improvement after only 10 hours and is excelling to extend out at an active participant in class, with greatly improved grades.

"Each one doesn't become a honor roll's a student has mastered the material being presented," says Tutoring Club director, Ines Beatrice Yee. "Over 300 percent increase is a clear fact that skill level indicate mastery and we move on. Building and retaining math skills can seem like climbing Mt. Everest to some kids, but our goal is to make it more like overcoming one molehill at a time - until we literally leave no child behind."

Set your child up for academic success and more importantly, to succeed in life. A parent is a child's strongest advocate and should consider an investment in "mentoring for success." A little time, planning and money spent now is a lot of time, money and stress saved later. The Tutoring Club, which opened its first center at Southern High Street, Global City, has recently opened a second center at the 2nd floor of Solid Center, Ortigas Avenue cor. Madison Street, San Juan, Metro Manila. Lots Schwartz, founder and CEO, will be in Manila this October to formally launch Tutoring Club. Free skills assessment will be given to the first few interested parties. For more information, please call the Global City branch at 856-2117 and 8597171 or ORTIGAS 894-5170, or Tutoring Club's Greenhills branch at 721-4867.

PIID-SAB holds 3rd congress

THE STUDENT ACCELARY BODY OF THE Philippine Institute of Interior Designers (PIID-SAB) will hold its 3rd congress at the IL Interior Depot in MR San Place from Nov. 15 to 17.

The congress anticipates an attendance of 150 interior design students and faculty members from PIID, UE IE, Adventist's College, PUP, UST, among the 17 interior design schools in the Philippines.

All interior design students are invited to join this 3-day congress, for this will surely be an enriching and inspiring experience for all the interior design students and the faculty members.

For more details, call the PIID secretariat at 807-3420 or 807-3409 and look for Shelly or Siel.

ICA batch '82 silver jubilee

AS NOVEMBER LIBERATES THE EXIST OF the holiday season, Immaculate Conception Academy, Greenhills together with Hiatte Fence Bodyline International, Facial Care Center, Smile Mend Dewer International Philippines, Ayesha Place Hotel and Top Gear are set to celebrate the most anticipated event of the year: "Slice of Life", ICAS alumnae homecoming on Nov 17.

The show, hosted by Sara Oh, will be a musical extravaganza featuring some of the country's most celebrated artists. In enhanced with the music of Christian Bautista, Mey Bravo, Pepe Fernandez, Jacqui Magno and Basil Valdez. Laugh to the ill-tickling comedy of Mitch Valdez and rock to the retro beat of Rivermaids.

A buffet dinner, a spectacular show and big raffle prizes courtesy of P500,000, resort holiday packages, Boracay trips, furniture, accessories, beauty service packages and many other goodies await guests for visitors, register at Immaculate Conception Alumnae office or call Dee at 849-2573.

Asus introduces all-new Eee PC

THE ASUS Eee PC HAS GENERATED BIG credible media noise as well as enthusiastic public interest since its first appearance. With accompanying demands as well as growing number of users, both young and old, the Asus Eee PC provides users with a new mobile Internet experience like never before.

This is a new line of PCs that features not providing users with the most comprehensive Internet application based on three features, easy to learn, play, Excellent Internet experience and Excellent on-the-go, hence the product name of Eee PC.

"This delightful little computer is indeed fully easy to use but at the same time a packed full of technology," said Asus Malony Intel executive VP GM of sales and marketing group. "We're delighted to partner with Asus on the development on this project, and we would like to once again commend our engineering to the Asus team of engineers and researchers."

Sam Maloney also said, "This tremendous company (Asus), with nearly 20 years of technological breakthroughs, has tackled one problem after another in the industry, and we believe that the Eee PC will be significant in bringing computing and Internet access to more and more children and people around the world-realizing Intel's World Ahead Program."

"Asus's the latest technology without a technical manual. So easy hands-on, the Eee PC offers ten modes of intuitive user interface design in order to accommodate both experienced and inexperienced PC users. The Eee PC is also 802.11n compatible. With over 40 built-in applications, the Eee PC offers dynamic computing experience for work and play.

Built-in WLAN connectivity allows users to stay connected for extended periods of time. Internet access on the go. With the Eee PC empowers users to share photos without waiting till one gets home; connect face to face with just a few clicks; enjoy online entertainment live; stay on top of emails for high work efficiency and more!

The 7" Eee PC is only 0.82 kg with large flash based storage capacity and built in webcam for compact mobility with seamless freedom. The special solid-state disc design based on built-in flash memory gives the Eee PC a great shock-proof advantage over traditional notebook PCs allowing more flexibility and a worry free mobile computing experience.

PCHA holds 32nd confab

THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF HOSPITAL Administrators (PCHA) is the sole organization pursuing with sustained dedication and deep concern in the advancement of hospital administration in the country by projects and programs in enhancing basic and management through seminars and symposia, publications, among others. The PCHA is composed of hospital executives dedicated in transformational leadership and social conscience.

On Nov 26, the College will be celebrating its 32nd annual convention and industry convention at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. It will be a whole day affair with registration starting at 8 a.m.

The theme is "The Government Agenda for the Hospital Industry."

Topics covered would be Medical Tourism, Reforms in healthcare under the Department of Health's "Kasangga Mo" program, Legal Obstacles in hospital management, Outsourcing of hospital services and the Hospital Detention Law. Speakers would be established personalities in both the private and public sector of the industry.

The registration fee per participant is P1,500 if registered before Nov. 15 and P1,800 if after the cut-off date. For reservations and inquiries, interested parties may call the PCHA Secretariat at 924-1527.

PLANTERSBANK CEO URGES 'SHE ENABLEMENT'

Ambassador Jesus P. Tantoco, chair and CEO of Planters Development Bank accepts a plaque of appreciation from Ayala Land's Isabel Tan during the Women Entrepreneurs Breakfast Meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Ambassador Jesus P. Tantoco, chair and CEO of Planters Development Bank (Plantersbank) recently urged women entrepreneurs to embrace technology and innovation to boost their competitiveness in the global market.

Tantoco made the statement during the Women Entrepreneurs Breakfast Meeting at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

"Women in trade is largely dependent upon mastery of basic skills - and the critical period for establishing that foundation is between 1st and 6th grade.

"Inability to read at grade level. "The

NCLEX Practice Test now open at IAME Pearson VUE Test Center

WITH NCLEX NOW AVAILABLE AT PEARSON PROMETRIC TEST CENTERS, the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and Pearson VUE Testing at IAME-Makati City have opened the NCLEX Practice Test to provide experience of taking NCLEX Exam in the environment of Pearson Test Center. The purpose of the pre-NCLEX Exam Practice Test is to remove motivation, fear and apprehension of the nurse examinees and to give them a feeling of confidence.

IAME-PMTC is also authorized to offer IT Certification for the following Test Programs: Agilent Technologies, Alteta, Aruba Networks, Inc., Avaya Inc., Brocade Communications, Check Point Software Technologies, Cisco Systems Inc., Citrix Systems Inc., CompTIA, CWNP, Dassault Systemes, EC Council, EMC, ISEC, HOA, ICBM, Infinet Systems, Linux Professional Institute, Microsoft One, Microsoft Testing, Microsoft Dynamics, My SQL, Novell Testing, Peoplesoft Inc., PostgreSQL, IT ISSA (ISC), Radware, Riverbed Technology, SAS Security Testing, SAS Security Certified Program, Sun Microsystems, Oracle Inc., Sun Microsystems - SAS Programs, VERITAS - Symantec Inc., Zeus Technologies.

The fee for the Practice Test is P500 per hour. The nurse examinees may also take a refresher course consisting of 12 modules at P500 per hour. The Practice Test is for both the NCLEX-509 and NCLEX-PN exams included.

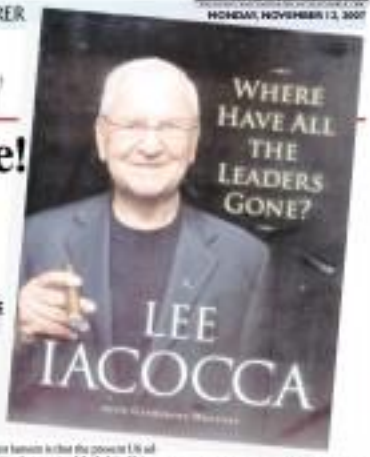
After passing the NCLEX Exam, the successful passer may take the TOEIC Exam at the IAME David English Proficiency Center.

The NCLEX Practice Test may be taken at The Pearson VUE Test Center located at the 4th floor of the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME), Roli Centre Intersections, at Nueva, 1201 Makati Medical Center, San Antonio Village, Makati City. Queries and reservations may be made through (632)899-2358; 757-3600 or 09 local 15; 0917-4665107.

BUSINESS Monday

PSBank Prime Time Deposit
6.0%* Guaranteed
- Minimum of PhP 50,000
- 5-year placement, tax-free
- Accessible monthly income
* Rate is per annum and subject to change without prior notice.
Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking. Open a time deposit now in any of 183 branches nationwide.

Leaders, rise!



"Where Have All the Leaders Gone?"
By Lee Iacocca
Scribner, 2007

EXECUTIVE READ

By Gerne M. Velasco
Contributor

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF CONFUSING double-talk these days. A bundle of cash distributed in the Palace is not a bribe, it is argued for the leader's consideration; a pardon granted to a convict is a humanitarian act because he is 78, while the rest of the less powerful 70-year olds remain in jail.

A cleric governor told the truth about the money he received, and almost all officials said he did wrong.

Whatever happened to our leaders? This would be a question that is actually a lament about the state of our leaders in this country.

Iacocca's lament

Do we have a monopoly of such a lament? No. A recent book by Lee Iacocca asks a similar question. "Where have all the leaders gone?" It is catchy because it takes off from a popular protest song in the '60s which asks "Where have all the flowers gone?"

In Lee Iacocca, the savior of Chrysler, mourning the disappearance of real leadership? It seemed so (in the beginning, until one got to the conclusion on the last page of the book. But that's getting ahead of the story.

His first lament is that the present US administration has acquired the habit of lying. Referring to American involvement in Iraq, the author says: "We want to war on a lie. Congress did not debate it. The press didn't challenge it. Secretary of State Colin Powell even got fooled." Sounds familiar?

His other lament is that the arrogance of leaders blinds them to real solutions. Iacocca relates the advice given by Douglas MacArthur to then President Lyndon Johnson: "Sonny, never get involved in a land war in Asia."

Johnson missed the point, and ordered the war to Vietnam where, after many years and thousands of Americans lives snuffed out, America lost.

The author explains that Johnson as re-served blanche by calling him "Sonny" he did not pick up the unsolicited advice.

The author also frowns upon politicians who decide on the basis of political expediency and not on what is right and effective.

Iacocca once advised former President Ronald Reagan to increase the gas tax of Americans by 5 percent to discourage oil consumption. Reagan reacted: "I will commit political suicide."

Iacocca also takes to task the greed in both government and business. He mentions that many leaders might have been watching a movie where Michael Douglas uttered, "Greed is good."

Positive alternatives

However, the book is not all laments and pessimistic tones that can make us feel despair but his no-nonsense, no-quarters leader.

But every optimist he makes, he offers a positive alternative. For example, to place of greed and other negative values, the author shares these thoughts:

"Instead of greed, how about getting-ness? Instead of envy, a little charity? Instead of pride, show some humility? Instead of wrath, let's see compassion."

From a former no-nonsense business leader, this quote seems alien: "Sees leadership involves not just leading a band, but also tending an ear—respecting the silences and imagining the unsaid."

Knowing Iacocca, now for what he thinks broadly, we know that the quote reflects the character of the man.

As he moves on giving running commentaries on leaders, making assessments on events, giving profiles of most saddled personages like Fidel Castro of Cuba, Iacocca steadily discloses his commitments.

He is an advocate of Adam Smith's free enterprise system. He points out: "Our capitalist system holds the promise that every American can succeed, but if we don't invest in with some humane values, in return, some have a smaller set of wings, which does not really serve our free enterprise system or our common good."

And yet he just doesn't leave into glittering generalities. He prescribes: "Pay for performance," and we understand that many leaders in America are being rewarded for not performing. In fact, he reveals a shocking truth that there was a year "when the highest paid CEOs in the country were heading the worst performing companies."

He adds, with understandable tinge of irony: "Is this a new definition of success...the ability to lose money?"

Retirement and mortality

Now in the twilight of his years, Iacocca dabs from sarcasm, wit and tinches of humor to sober and somber thoughts of his retirement—then of his mortality. Throughout the book, Iacocca freely shares his thoughts and ideas—as a straight shooter. Those thoughts come from a man who is no longer impressed by honeyed words, feigned compassion, and social cordiality. He is unwilling with candor.

Somehow, when what counts in life comes, he is gentle and full of distilled wisdom. He advises that when you retire, you should not "disengage from life" instead keep your wits the tooth." "Count your blessings," he says, adding "I never want my religion on my down, but I've always had faith."

In his encounter with these popes and evangelist Oral Roberts, he vividly recalls Roberts' message: "Your miracle's going on the, and they go someplace. So just be sure your spiritual bank account has more cash receipts than debit."

Yes, he finally asks the question: Where have all the leaders gone? His answer is both categorical and hopeful: "They're right here in this great country, but they need to be called forth."

The wisdom and optimism of Lee Iacocca who never gave up on Chrysler's nor giving up on America....and, maybe the world. If that's any consolation, the world includes the Philippines. (dmontemayor@yahoo.com)

For inquiries, please call:
831-5151 • 0918-888-7632 • 0917-500-5151
www.chateauelysee.com
SM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
From malls to homes

BUSINESS Monday
Business/Features Editor
Margot Quiroga-Rapista

Tale of a new city rising in China

Tianjin to host WEF meeting next year

By Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TIANJIN, CHINA—IT DOESN'T LOOK AS a surprise that this city, once known as the "ferry crossing of the emperor," will host next year's World Economic Forum on "New Champions."

From the empty spaces and salt beds between the city center, about an hour's drive from Beijing, and the Bohai Bay to North China, the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area ("Teda") has been transformed into an industrial and hi-tech hub after more than a decade.

Teda's central business district, about one hours' drive from the Chinese capital, is a well-planned "gleaming city" of office and residential buildings, hotels, banks, shops for high-end consumer goods, restaurants, gardens, fountains and wide boulevards.

New structures, including the convention center for next year's WEF meeting, are being built in Teda, whose business district is an "advanced" (success of development) and bigger version of sorts of The Fort in Taguig in Metro Manila.

Teda, a location zone, is part of the Tianjin Binhai New Area (TBNA), which comprises three administrative districts—Tanggu, Hangu and Dagang—and two other functions zones—Tianjin Port Free Zone and Tianjin Port.

A scale model of the TBNA occupies the first floor of the administrative building where visitors are briefed about the different sections, highways, rivers and boundaries of the sprawling area.

The TBNA boasts a planned area of 2,270 square kilometers with a coastline of 153 km.

Incentives

To attract investors, the government has offered investors a preferential tax rate of up to 15 percent and accelerated depreciation on fixed and intangible assets.

The TBNA has attracted some 3,000 investors including more than 200 enterprises from the world's top 500 firms) from 100 countries, resulting to "utilized" overseas investment of $18.3 billion.

Domestic investment amounted to 33.2 billion yuan, according to its administrative committee.

Among the companies that have set up shop in Teda are Otis, Sears, Glaxo Smith Kline and Shenzhen Bus Inc.

Teda is booming in the area as reflected in the frenetic activities at the port.

Giant blue and red cranes, like birds of "Transformers," sit atop the quays on the light brown waters of Bohai, loading and unloading cargo.

World's 6th biggest port

With a capacity of 258 million tons, the Tianjin port is the 4th largest in China and the 6th in the world.

Last year, its container handling capacity stood at 5.95 million TEUs.

A newly built four-story shipping service center, which has a large glass dome and pavilion below, furnishes customs consultation.

YOLO SU-I

LOBBY of the Shipping Service Center (Caption under a glass dome)

TIANJIN Port

Take Your Head Office Wherever You Go

Anywhere you are is a perfect place for your head office. Whether it's an airport lounge, the backseat of your car or your backyard. It's easy with the **SME Mobility Bundle** from Globe, the leader in complete business solutions and innovations. It's a complete package for small to medium scale businesses. It comes with a laptop, a data card and a Globe Visibility connection, the ultimate in mobile internet communication.

You can now connect to the world of online business or to the guys back at your home office at speeds of up to 1.8 megabits per second. Globe Visibility automatically chooses the fastest mobile connection speed available in your area to maximize your internet time:

- **GPRS** at 56 kbps.
- **EDGE** (Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution). A 3G technology that delivers broadband-like speeds to mobile devices.
- **Wi-Fi** (Wireless Fidelity). Wi-Fi enabled computers send and receive data indoors and out; anywhere within the range of a base station.
- **3G with HSDPA** (High Speed Downlink Packet Access). It's one of the most powerful cellular data technologies ever developed, with speeds of up to 1.8 megabits per second.

Here are just some of the things you can do with Globe's SME Mobility Bundle:

- **E-mail**
  Downing your business means building business relationships and being constantly up-to-date on business matters. E-mail enables you to correspond with your partners here and all over the world.

- **File transfers**
  Sending files, videos and documents through courier are old school. Not only does it take a long time to get there, the costs can be hard on your budget, especially for overnight services. Now you can securely transfer files online and the transfer happens in a few seconds. After sending, you can quickly check its receipt via e-mail.

- Keep an eye on your business with **Globe WebEye** (At add-on option). Globe WebEye is a security camera you can place anywhere in your office or business. It's hooked directly to the Internet via Globe Broadband connection. Through the **SME Mobility Bundle**, you can access Globe WebEye and check out your business in real time from anywhere.

Open your business to a world of unlimited potential. Just call the Globe Business Hotline at 7302200 and discover for yourself what the **SME Mobility Bundle** can do for your company.

KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL PROGRAM

Mindanao school gets new educational facilities

MELANIE MARTIN CEBU, Iriga—The US Agency for International Development (USAID/Philippines) and the Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. last week turned over educational television (ETV) facilities to the San Isidro Elementary School in Malinao, South Cotabato.

An official ceremonies attended by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus and USAID mission director Jim Lindberg, the school received satellite TV infrastructure under the program "Television facilities access for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao" or TEAM Mindanao.

The three-year USAID-assisted project, which started in 2004 has provided 100 public schools in conflict-affected areas in ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao) and Regions 9 and 12 with access to ETV programs covering the DepEd's basic learning competencies in Math, Science and English.

San Isidro Elementary School is the 130th and last school on the list of recipients, officially terminating the Knowledge Channel project in this part of the country.

So far the Knowledge Channel has been benefiting some 70,529 students on a yearly basis in the most remote and isolated areas of Mindanao.

It has been made available in 31 municipalities within eight provinces including Basilan, Jolo and Tawi-Tawi.

According to Boni Ruiz, TEAM Mindanao project director, the Knowledge Channel (KC) has impacted on the academic performance of its recipients; especially in the provinces of Zamboanga Sibugay.

All 18 schools provided with KCS in that province have posted significant increases across all subject areas in the Division Achievement Tests (DAT), according to the Zamboanga Sibugay Schools Division ETV coordinator, Pacifico Hitsch.

Among notable successes was the Habili Mata modified Elementary School, which posted a significant increase in its Mean Percentage Score (MPS) from 2.56% place (41.03 percent) in the Division in 2005-2006 to 7th place (61.31 percent) in 2006-2007.

Sanghorahan Elementary School also showed an increase in its MPS and rose from 27th place (50.35 percent) in 2005-2006 to 1st place (68 percent) in 2006-2007 in the DAT.

Ruiz also claimed that TEAM-Mindanao is a prototype of project sustainability with Barun Teachers and Community Associations of 18 schools in South Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga Sibugay and Tawi-Tawi having raised funds on their own to buy a total of 45 additional television sets for their schools.

This, noted Ruiz, is "no mean feat, considering that all of these communities are mired in poverty and belong to hot and bitter insurgencies."

Some local government units have also partnered with TEAM-Mindanao and have supported the project by paying their schools' electric bills, improving KCs viewing rooms by repainting or decorating these, providing floor mats for children to sit on, and more importantly, maintaining and ensuring the safety of the ETV infrastructure with the help of barangay tanods.

With TEAM-Mindanao, the Knowledge Channel is now in the southernmost mountainous areas of the country—Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi where schools were rehabilitated with solar panels before the ETV infrastructure was installed.

"Tawi-Tawi children as well as their teachers in the "farthest" of islands now enjoy and learn from educational television like their Manila counterparts, in effect equalizing teaching and learning opportunities," Hanol said.

According to the project director, "the last three years have been dotted with advancements of the related and subsidiary kinds—getting lost in the midst of the hostilities and the island hamlets which disappeared in the mist, crossing incredible untested waters to get to the mountain schools of Zamboanga del Sur, getting caught in the crossfire of warring families in Basilan, and unrolling satellite dishes in the midst of military operations in Maguindanao to flush out ASG leader Janjalani. No doubt, there were times when we asked ourselves if the effort was worth all these; and we found the answers in the faces of little children whose eyes lit up and rose to upon seeing television for the first time."

Educational television and technology is finally at work in Mindanao—at least in these 130 schools where administrators were determined of having a technology-driven educational intervention assist them in the way that the Knowledge Channel has.

Functionality • Durability • Clarity @ an Affordable Price!

ViewSonic
the choice of professionals

PJ503D
1500 lumens
Price starts at
P27,980.00

PJ1064D
2000 lumens
P29,980.00

PJ358
2000 lumens
PC Less Projector

PJ258
2000 lumens
Ipod Projector

PJ559
2500 lumens
Black or Whiteboard Projection

PJ862
3100 lumens
Horizontal - Vertical Keystone

PJ1158
4000 lumens
Network Projector

PJ1172
4500 Lumens
Network Projector

AVLS All Visual & Lights Systems

CALL US FOR A FREE DEMO

Sole Authorized Philippine Distributor

Head Office: All Visual & Lights Systems, ABC Commercial Center, E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Q.C. Tel. Nos. 911-0988, 911-1000, 421-7163, Fax No. 911-7889

Branch Office: All Visual & Lights Systems, 2/F SP Real, Fortuna Plaza, Alcantara Center, Cotabato City, Tel. No. 910-6398

The Wire - Cebu, Unit 711 Crown Golf Building, Ayala Business Center, Cebu City, Telefax (032) 346-2411

Authorized Resellers: #1 (IT) A Center, 2/F Upper Ground Flr. New Frontiers Plaza, Alcantara Center, Cotabato City, Tel. 910-7165, 910-1084, Fax Loc. 911-7422

A. Rialto Photographics, 2/F Upper Ground Flr. New Frontiers Plaza, Alcantara Center, Cotabato City, Tel. Nos. 911-0988, 910-7167

Tale of a new city ...

From page B5-1

stone through the e-port system; that integrates e-government, e-commerce and e-logistics.

Improvement in Tianjin's economic performance as a result of the trade and investment.

Over the past five years, its gross domestic product (GDP) has registered an annual growth rate of 14 percent, according to Mayor Dai Xianglong.

He said the average annual sale of revenue grew 24.3 percent.

Tianjin's GDP increased 14.4 percent last year to 403.71 billion yuan, among per capita GDP to more than $5,000.

Testing ground for reforms

In line with the guidelines of China's State Council, people in China, who want to buy foreign stocks, can use Tianjin as "testing ground," said the mayor.

"In principle, promising investor concerning financial enterprises, financial businesses, financial market and financial operating up are allowed to be tested first in the TBDA," the Council said in a document s- ued on May 26, 2006.

Tianjin has a population of 10.43 million and an area of 11,900 square kilometers. One of the four municipalities under the direct supervision of the central government, it will host football games during the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

By August next year, there has transport workers will look the city to Beijing.

High-speed trains will run between the two in half hour, Beijing to just 30 minutes.

Zhang Gaoli, secretary general of the CPC Tianjin Municipal Committee, said, "Tianjin will follow the scientific approach to development," hopefully to become the country's third pillar of growth.

The State Council has identified the TBDA as another engine for regional economic growth after the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and the Pudong New Area.

"If we seal giant development, we should open up. So we will make the investment climate excellent for both foreigners and Chinese," Zhang said.

PART of the Tianjin Binhai New Area

October Global Sales Rebound
-15.3 pct m-o-m to 240,953 units

- Korean sales up 2.3 pct m-o-m, overseas sales up 17.3 pct

- Jan-Oct '07 sales up 5.4 pct y-o-y reaching 2.14 million

(Seoul, Korea) After a sluggish September which saw Hyundai Motor Co.'s worldwide sales fall by 11.5 percent, there was good news in October as sales rebounded by 15.3 percent over the prior month to reach 240,953 units. On a cumulative basis, the company's worldwide sales for the ten months of this year are up 5.4 percent over the comparable period last year, reaching 2,139,170 units.

Korean sales rose by 6.8 percent m-o-m to 85,224 units while a brisk rise in export shipments drove Korean factories precipitated an even healthier 37.5 percent rise equivalent to 113,304 units.

Domestic Passenger Car

Sonata, Avante/Elantra and the Grandeur/Azera were the company's top three selling vehicles in the home market with 10,376 units, 8,802 units and 8,340 units, respectively sold in October. In a market that has been traditionally cool to hatchbacks, sales of the newly introduced i30 topped the 2,000 mark for the second straight month. A total of 30,402 Hyundai passenger cars were sold in Korea during October, marking a 0.2 percent improvement over the previous month.

Domestic SUV & Minivans

Santa Fe once again led SUV sales with 4,709 units sold (up by 43.6 percent) with Tucson in second spot registering sales of 2,738 units. Total SUV and minivan sales for October jumped by 18.3 percent m-o-m to 8,803 units.

Commercial Vehicles

Sales of Hyundai buses in Korea surged by 28.8 percent m-o-m to 1,261 units while truck sales jumped by 22.6 percent m-o-m to 10,656 units.

Export Sales

Overseas shipments from Hyundai's three Korean factories grew by 37.5 percent m-o-m to 108,304 units, excluding the exports of 23,480 knock-down kits to overseas assembly partners in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

Hyundai's overseas manufacturing subsidiaries in India, China, Turkey and the United States saw October sales slip by 2.7 percent m-o-m to 77,425 units. Total overseas sales for the month stood at 185,729 units equivalent to a 17.3 percent improvement over the previous month.

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Co. has grown over the years to become the fifth largest automotive manufacturer in the world with annual sales of more than 2.5 million units. Employing over 58,000 people worldwide, Hyundai Motor posted US$43.4 billion in sales in 2006 on a consolidated basis. In 2006 it sold more than 2.4 million vehicles in 200 countries through some 5,000 dealerships and showrooms. Hyundai Motor America (HMA), Hyundai Motor Europe GmbH (HME) and Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) are wholly owned subsidiaries of Hyundai Motor Co. For more information, please visit the company's website at http://www.hyundai-motor.com

DESIGNS range from simple ethnic motifs to complicated actual portraits

Text and photos by Abigail L. Ho

Art on your wrist

PAINTINGS USUALLY ADORN the walls of museums or art lovers' homes...admired from afar, not to be touched lest their beauty be tainted.

But there are works of art that derive an human touch and some actually reside at most permanently on the owner's arm.

These are wearables art—exactly what Bubbler Bangles 'n Beads' (BBB) pieces are. Their colorful wooden bangles are literally works of art, being sold anywhere store, with designs ranging from simple ethnic motifs to complicated actual portraits.

"I was an artist by profession and I really wanted to incorporate my love of artwork," says Jenny Lei Jimlim, the man responsible for hundreds of unique BBB bangle designs. "Bangles were the easiest way to do that since they provided a big enough canvas for painting."

In effect 11 years of working in an art gallery as resident artist, and everything else besides, Jenny decided to pursue another calling in the art scene.

It also helped that his girlfriend and business partner Hedjing Ho is a huge bangle person.

Team effort

"We're really a team," says Ho. "I handle the online business. Jenny is in charge of production, and another partner, Joyce, takes care of the administrative stuff and the financials."

The design conceptualization process is evidently Jimmy's territory, she says.

"Jenny is duly supported by five young apprentice artists who execute his designs on their doughnut-shaped canvas.

Working tirelessly for the most part of a day Jenny can be (and has been) cranking out finished artworks from 150 to 200 bangles a week, with each contributing five to 10 bangles a day.

"It's a long process since each piece is hand-painted," he says. "The process is exactly like doing a painting, only the medium is a bangle."

If the actual painting process takes a lot of time and effort, Jimmy says, the conceptualization stage is even more taxing as he always has to have fresh new ideas coming.

Unique designs

His designs are inspired by almost anything under the sun—from graphic designs and architectures to store prints that he sees on the streets or even on someone's shirt.

Since Jimmy is in the fashion business, he also has to be updated with the latest trends here and abroad.

"I'm going but I always have to read fashion magazines and websites," he says. "I have to know the latest trends. We need to keep coming up with new ideas."

But having to constantly look through fashion magazines and websites has paid off handsomely for BBB as Jimmy says he has not seen designs like theirs on anybody else's bangles.

He also takes pride in saying that BBB is probably one of the massive wooden bangles are a rage among Filipina fashionistas, whether it's summer or the rainy season.

"Bangles are usually summer accessories, but we still have a constant stream of buyers even if it's no longer summer," he says. "The quality of the bangles, even if they're a bit pricey, keep clients coming back for more."

Although BBB also comes out with basic bangle designs, such as ethnic prints, flowers and our faces, he says the extras given to these common designs are what give BBB pieces an edge over those of competitors.

Since each of BBB's pieces are lovingly and painstakingly made, using only high quality paints and wooden bangles, it's not a surprise that they are also priced a bit higher than other wooden bangles in the market.

He says BBB bangles sell for a minimum of P800, such pricetaint price tags placed on special and made-to-order designs.

The price factor actually made Jenny a bit apprehensive at the start since he wasn't sure whether or not people would be willing to pay a premium for wooden fashion accessories.

Artists' talent fees are obviously not open for comparisons, considering the difficulty of executing artworks on such small canvasses. The quality of the materials used also cannot be sacrificed.

"But then, people started buying, and we also had a lot of repeat orders," he relates.

Power of the Internet

BBB's rise on social networking and blogging service provider Multiply—bubblesbanglebeads.multiply.com—has helped boost the popularity of BBB bangles by the sheer number of people it can reach at one given time.

Right now, BBB bangles are also consigned in Anthology at the Anthology section of the Greenphase Mall, 3rd floor in Cubao; Boho in Glorietta 3, Dapecool Cherry in Serendra, Silapo Shoes in Greenhills, and Nothing But Shoes.

She says BBB doesn't have any plans of setting up a physical store since the Multiply site is easier to maintain, with less overhead.

"We can't fill up an entire retail store store with just our bangles," she explains. "It's also easier to just sell on Multiply since all we need is an Internet connection and a computer. We're still wary of risks."

Cyberspace continues to be the most lucrative business venue for BBB, she says, with buzzers and consignments becoming only secondary markets, serving as a means to constantly remind people that BBB is here and is still churning out new stuff.

BBB sees conversion as a key success factor—which is why it has expanded its line to electronic store earrings and funky yet classy neckpieces, all sticked in wood.

As long as people are willing to bring along their "painting" wherever they go, he says, BBB will continue to churn out pieces that are worthy of being called wearable art.

"THE PROCESS is exactly like doing a painting, only the medium is a bangle," says Jimmy (left)

RP's ATM industry prepares to hitch on outsourcing bandwagon

THE COUNTRY'S OUTsourcing industry dominated by business process providers like call centers, is on its way to a new arena as banks and other financial institutions aggressively pursue expansion plans anchored on the rapid deployment of more automated teller machines (ATMs) nationwide.

Since 1996 in the Philippines have traditionally been owned and operated by the banks, these units have often been branded as a cost center, requiring substantial capital investments as an added service demanded by bank clients.

Banks, therefore, not only need to be technologically ready but also financially sound to be able to put in place an ATM infrastructure to drive future growth.

For this reason, independent operators, also known as ISOs (independent service organizations) or IADs (independent ATM deployers), will likely take on a greater role as the local banks' growth strategies, seeking to capitalize on the limitations of banks, particularly smaller banks such as rural banks, to modernize and expand through the deployment of an extensive ATM network.

In the Philippines, ISOs can work out various deals with banks in setting up an ATM system, or as cost to the banks.

Initially, these arrangements involve the supply and maintenance of ATMs, with the banks providing the location, network connection and cash handling services.

Non-bank locations are also viable sites to meet cardholders' need for convenience in obtaining cash.

Tiered fee-based charges will apply on a per transaction basis shared among the host, the ISOs and other participants through which the transaction was consummated.

In the US and other advanced markets like Europe, ISOs have gained prominence as the foremost provider of ATMs for banks.

From less than 20 percent in 2000, private ownership of ATMs has now widely exceeded bank-owned units with at least 60 percent in the US alone, the bulk of which are in off-site locations.

ISOs have also been driving retail deployment in the US with about 21,000 off-site ATMs, more than 2.5 times the number of that in Spain, its closest rival in Europe, said Dominic Smith, managing director of London-based financial analysis firm Retail Banking Research Ltd. and an executive board member of the global group ATM Industry Association (ATMIA).

Besides increasing activity on the part of ISOs and greater willingness to pay for their services, fintech and other factors that would propel future retail ATM deployment include growth in average retail outlet size, greater penetration in underserved rural areas, and growth in third-party advertising.

Take your head office on the road.

It's easy with the SME Mobility Bundle

Globe Business

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS

A TYPICAL Punta Fuego sunset

BUSINESS Monday

Landco Pacific strives to keep market edge

By Christine A. Gotiaco
Contributor

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT FOR LANDCO Pacific Corp. is more than merely upgrading the land value but is constantly recreating a unique niche that targets the need for comfortable but chic urban living or bringing modern amenities into a rural setting.

Landco Pacific has been ahead of the pack among Philippine real estate developers when it comes to high-end projects. The company, which is a joint venture between the Xavier Bunges family and the First Metro Pacific Corp., introduced upscale resort living with its Hacienda de Punta Fuego and other related projects in 1995. It also introduced the urban farming concept with Lessons Farms in 1999.

"We are four to five years ahead among other property developers in this scale. We always try to bring opportunity for quality living because we live in very stressful times," shares Landco senior vice president Albert "Alby" Xavier Bunges III.

Alby, who is also the marketing manager, says it has been a challenge to maintain its edge of the high-end market in a very competitive industry these days, which rides on more than five years of a property market boom.

High-end brand

He says every project must be conceived differently to satisfy the diverse and eclectic taste of the Class A to upper B markets.

Alby says that in conceptualizing new projects, they always make sure that their targeted market only wants the best in life.

"We have to bring on the fact that our prospective clients, who are successful in their careers and mostly well-traveled, only want the best things in life. We have to constantly work to meet their demands and we only wanted to give the best projects that they deserve," he notes.

Alby's dad, Landco Pacific's president and CEO Albert Xavier Bunges Jr., says acquiring a prime piece of property is not only relevant but is investing in reliable infrastructure that commands the price of a high-end real estate brand.

The elder Xavier Bunges says they strive to go beyond expectations of their very particular market.

He says that for their new project, the Montevanas de Cebu, Landco expects capital investments on the part of Landco and its partners from start to finish are valued in excess.

"This is the company's biggest project outside of Lucena and we want to go beyond expectations," he notes.

Latest project

The seasoned property developer knows that the location of Montevanas de Cebu occupying a 200-hectare piece of property located 240 meters above sea level but known as the "Skyline" will provide a scenic view of Cebu City and its nearby islands.

"This is the last contiguous property available in the heart of Cebu City," says the elder Xavier Bunges. He notes that their tandem with project partners Genel Development Corp. led by current deputies and Margarita Villalon would fulfill one of the grandest mixed-use residential projects in the country.

The groundbreak for stable road access and other supporting infrastructure has begun in April. Future residents are guaranteed a view of Mandaue, Cebu and Talisay cities.

"We have invested a substantial amount of money to make everything right," he says.

The company has recognized the need to address the environmental concerns on the project's drainage system.

Alby says the company has invested in the development of 25 detention ponds that can contain 1,000 cu.meters of water at one time to prevent the flooding of lowland areas.

The project's first phase, which covers 60 hectares of development, may be completed in two to three years' time at an estimated cost of not less than P1 billion to P5 billion in investments.

Water availability and other technological enhancements such as Wi-Fi connections for future residents are also incorporated in the initial construction stage.

"It is important that the residents of Montevanas will have all the amenities they need," assures Alby.

He notes that city living would be like no other as they incorporate the resort living amenities to relieve urban dwellers of daily stress.

Alby adds that the Villalons are very particular with the concept of the architectural and interior designs for Montevanas, his greater Villalon has an extensive background in architecture.

Cebu's love for elegance

Montevanas will ranks one of the contemporary Philippine architectural robust society continues to bride for in and Fabellon. Its design will reveal a sense of the Cebuanos' excellent taste for elegance and traditions, Alby points out.

Since the soft launching of the Montevanas in the second quarter of this year, residents, who want to own the province's Cebu City address to the future, have already bought property in Montevanas.

There has been an avid interest now from property buyers from Cebu and those from other provinces. About 20 percent of the 90 hectare phase one of the Montevanas de Cebu have been reserved by potential homeowners when Landco started to pre-sell the lots in July.

The younger Xavier Bunges said the company began selling the premium lot areas of Peaks 1 and 2 of the entire 200-hectare property of the Villalon family.

"We mean to sell from the top going down, starting with the most expensive lots, because we want to establish that this is an upscale project," he notes.

Parcels of land at the Montevanas have since ranging from 600 square meters to 800 square meters and are priced between P12,000 and P15,000 per square meter.

However, the elder Xavier Bunges says that lower-priced lots would also be offered. "Eventually, we will develop residences catering to the upper middle class," he notes. "We will make sure of that."

RATED 10 over 10
Special 10th Anniversary Limited Edition Series

LIMITED EDITION
CROSSWIND XTi

Be one of the few to drive home the Limited Edition Crosswind XT and Sportivo models. With features and add-ons that set you apart from the conventional, these latest variants create that distinction you truly deserve.

Also available: Limited Edition SPORTIVO Special Colors: Tornado Red & Pearl White

Manufactured and distributed by Isuzu Philippines Corporation

IN THIS ISSUE
- Nick Joaquin reading nook opens this week /E4
- New sculptures by Ramon Orlina /D4

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chris Bunuel Portuese
Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Still the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (left) still sustainable in 2007? At Legad Village, Barangay Ubog, Bontoc, a showcase of community-based tourism, houses are being built through traditional construction methods and materials.

International heritage experts to hold meeting in the Cordilleras

PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL for Monuments and Sites (Icomos) is a Paris-based NGO whose members are heritage practitioners recognized and respected around the world as leaders in their field.

The organization regulates the conservation profession worldwide and advises the Unesco World Heritage Committee on cultural heritage issues. Its Philippine members are prominently involved in government and private sector conservation projects in the country and many are members of the academe.

Distinguished heritage experts from France, Italy, Switzerland, Macedonia, Russia, Canada, USA, Mexico, Dominican Republic, China, Japan, Korea and Australia, members of the Icomos Committee for Vernacular (Traditional) Architectures, are gathering in Bontoc, Dagan Province, on the first week of December for its annual meeting.

Meetings are held in a different country each year to provide occasions for members to share their expertise with local communities.

The 2007 meeting will take a close look at international heritage sites, vast cultural landscape that combine natural and man-

INTERNATIONAL CO

Whenever two people come together and their behavior affects one another, you have ETIQUETTE - Emily Post
EMILY POST'S ETIQUETTE ADVANTAGE
Makati Cinemas
Ayala Center
Glorietta 4
Greenbelt 3
Greenbelt 5
Robinsons Galleria
Robinsons Ermita
Robinsons Manila
Robinsons Metro East
Robinsons Novaliches
Robinsons Place Manila
Robinsons Place Antipolo
Robinsons Place Dasmariñas
Robinsons Place Imus
Robinsons Place Lipa
Robinsons Place Malolos
Robinsons Place Pampanga
Robinsons Place Roxas
Robinsons Place Santiago
Robinsons Place Tacloban
Robinsons Place Urdaneta
Robinsons Starmall Alabang
Robinsons Starmall Cebu
Robinsons Starmall Cebu
Robinsons Starmall Cebu

Odd mixture of the popular and the academic

"CINCO Sinigang," by Santiago Bose, at the Lopez Memorial Museum

By Constantine C. Tejero

HIGH CULTURE DOESN'T HAVE to be an unendurable size. Civilians can't just for the cultural; in an art exhibit, one only has to focus on important issues and significant themes of the subject and make these digestible for the common audience.

It came to point in the just-finished exhibition "Ears it," which started some years ago in an art gallery and into museums. By raising the popular and the academic, the annual cultural events has proven to be notable and, in fact, necessary for that it has added more venues to its consortium.

Now on its ninth year, it opened in mid-September and extends until middle of next year in thirteen Art Gallery, Ayala Museum, Bahay Tsinoy, Lopez Memorial Museum and Museo Pambata ng Maynila.

The various exhibits are unified by the theme of hybridity, the notion of the combined in our culture. Each, show therefore, takes on "hybridization in all its forms," and the whole becomes an "exploration of likeness and resistance."

As the exhibition note-manipulates it: "The specific interpretative themes you, assisted by each museum pitches for a

CHILD'S ART at Museo Pambata

critical rethinking of what and how to show art realized."

Ayala Museum in Makati City opened the event with "Hybridity: Shah Lewis Riggins," a fabulous collection of jewelled portraits taken from history, religion, geography and archaeology which has sold fair October.

The iron-like images, painted, collaged and heavily adorned with semi-

precious stones, were inspired by girls' deep interest in the history and archaeology "in the face of rising and overlapping borders."

Figures and convergence

In "Hot," various artists exhibit to polarities, dualities, flowers, points at which opposites converge.

Opening last late month, the runs until April 5, 2009, in the Lopez Memorial Museum, G/F Benpres Building, Sol cor Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

"Gerardo Ortiz" documents Chinese elders have been through the years—jumping, and pots & Chinese living some of examples of such hybrid food.—Indian-based cuisine became its

Opening last Saturday, the exhibit Dec. 3 at Bahay Tsinoy (Museum of Chinese in Philippine Life), Kalaw Ring Heritage Center, 32 Solan

International heritage experts to hold . . .

From page D

made qualities; it will focus on the human dimension in conservation, the necessity for community participation for preservation of heritage sites.

Examples will be presented showing different approaches to the preservation of heritage sites that have broad means to upgrade the quality of life of the residents concerned.

Before a Philippine project that have successfully used heritage as a resource for income generation to benefit local communities will be presented. These projects, now uplifting communities in southern Cebu, Bohol, Taal, Vigan, show the Philippines has succeeded with innovative approaches to heritage conservation.

Heritage, after all, is a highly underutilized resource for sustainable income generation and nation-building. The forums meeting is determined to find innovative methods to preserve heritage in a sustainable manner that benefits communities living in heritage sites.

Ideal setting

The Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordillera is an ideal setting for the meeting. The surrounding, complex site is one of the few in the world that combine the works of nature and man that say, like many other cultural sites, handed differently encroaching themselves in the 21st century.

Constructed with traditional methods which have remained the same through at least a millennium, inimitable textures of breathtaking beauty rise into high mountain slopes of the Philippine Cordillera ancestor with ancient methods of agriculture, forest management and water distribution methods which are now finding difficulty continuing into the present day.

The survival of the terraces is not dependent on simply mending falling terrace walls. Complicating the issue of site preservation is that the lifestyle of terrace inhabitants is increasingly difficult to maintain as civilization and technology progress into the modern era.

Conserving heritage has little relevance to most city residents who live on a day-to-day survival mode. Therefore, human aims to make them aware that among the values of heritage is its non-first sophistication as a sustainable cultural and eco-tourism re-

PUTHO Spanish colonial church in Barlaan, Magsingal, a heritage resource waiting for reuse

WHAT are the heritage tourism possibilities that will keep traditional bamboo and nipa houses alive?

HAND-TIED nalan strips secure bamboo in the roof framing of a traditional Ifugao house.

IS THE BRIGADE Amarta an colonial-period gloriosa at the Corcar r islands in Cebu a useless monument for the 21st century?

source, and, therefore, heritage must be preserved as a livelihood opportunity and also for community identity.

Training of Philippine conservation practitioners is another objective of the meeting. Many conservation courses are not offered in Philippine universities, the presence of foreign colleagues is a rare opportunity for Iconos Philippine committee members and other heritage professionals working in the country to widen their personal international networks and to upgrade professional skills.

Partnering with Iconos National Committee Philippines are the United States Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation, Network of Expertise for the Global Environment (nfe; Tokyo Electric Power Company; Fundación Santiago; Department of Tourism; Ayala Foundation; and National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Environmental planners

The 2007 National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners (PIEP) will be held Nov. 23-24 at Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue, Quezon City.

This year's theme is "Enhancing Local Economic Development through Short Distance Planning." It showcases the "Best Practices" of local government initiatives in increasing local revenues, attracting private investments, and improving local economic productivity.

The theme recognizes the need of most LGUs to increase their resources and expand job opportunities to improve the living and working conditions of their citizens.

PIEP also acknowledges that many LGUs have initiated innovative approaches to address such challenges, and their lessons will be shared with the audience.

Co-sponsors are the League of Municipalities, League of Cities, and League of Provinces, with LGU mayors and governors expected to make presentations.

For information or iconos, visit www.iconos.org or iconosphilippines.blogspot.com. Contact Arlene Calvo, 9/F of The PIEP Insurance at 9280058, fax 9270305, or e-mail piep_secretariat@yahoo.com.

E-mail feedback to priyk.pinoy@gmail.com.

UST Museum show focuses on Vigan as heritage city

THE CENTER FOR THE CONSERVation of the Cultural Property and Environment in the Tropics (CCPET) of the University of Santo Tomas will open the exhibit "Mapping the Past, Charting the Future: The Cultural Mapping Project of the Heritage City of Vigan" Nov. 16, 4 p.m. at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Events of honor are Vigan City Mayor Eva Marie Medina, a UST Architecture alumna, and deputy executive director Emilie V. Dong, co-of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

The opening ceremony will be highlighted by a stage play on assorted houses heritage issues to be performed by the Bahid theater group.

The two-part exhibit aims to visually present the process of cultural mapping and its significance to community development. The first part features documentation of heritage resources—natural, built, intangible and movable heritages. The second part illustrates the applications of the heritage documentation on other salient activities such as policy-making, environmental planning, conservation and product development.

The CCPET is the research arm of the UST Museum, the country's oldest museum, and the Regalado body of all heritage research courses in UST, Asia's oldest university. CCPET officials include heritage conservationists Jose Arrocado and Segundo "Bota Jose, who also teach at the Cultural Heritage Studies program of the UST graduate school.

The exhibit will run until Nov. 29. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday. Call 406-1611 to 40/1611 local 8209 and 8207.

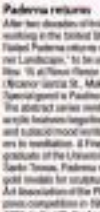
WELL-PRESERVED old section of Vigan, named Heritage City by Unesco

VISUAL ARTS

Paderna returns

After two decades of living and working in the United States, Daniel Paderna returns with "In/Out/Between," to be opened Nov. 15 at Nova Nova Galleries (Nicanor Garcia St., Makati City). Special guest is Pauline Gan.

The abstract series rendered in acrylic features lagging colors and subdued mood contemporaries in meditation. A Fine Arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, Paderna received gold medals for sculpture at the Art Association of the Philippines competition in 1981 and 1982. In the US, the Asian-American Association in California gave him First Prize in painting in 1986 and the Jurors' Choice award in 1984. Paderna's contemporaries include fellow UST alumni Tan Bunbin, Raul Isidro and Edgar Barrios. Call 8982D/8320945.



"GESTURES for a River," by Mercer Oliver Vinluan

Vinluan at West

Mastro Gallery (Kalaw) presents "Three Assemblages and Other Recent Works," until Nov. 20 at West Gallery and Nolan Art Fair (Antonio Arnaiz, Makati, Call Magsanoll, tel. 8343384 and 8343413). The works on paper were inspired by artist Vinluan's late and experienced in Sandoval, the birthplace of Rizal.

Sheldhaver, Ladroncia at De las Islas

Galeria de las Islas (3/F, Bibelot Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila) presents "Extremes," until Nov. 30. featuring Australian artist Mark Sheldhaver with Danilo Dalia Ladroncia. Sheldhaver, a former Philippine resident, adapts the Aboriginal style in his art to depicting typical market and street scenes. Ladroncia's works are in mixed media, collage and monoprints. Call 527-1111.

UST shows at Metro

Upstairs 68, which groups together UST graduates, is holding its annual art exhibit, until Nov. 30, in Metro Gallery, 4th/F Bonifacio St., San Juan City. Featured are Domingo Alcoseba, Antonio Austria, Christo Bilanga, José Blanco, Pacita Ana "Boy" Estrella, Gilda Mata-Guerrero, Pablo Javier, Renato Gomez, Lourdes Dru-Andrews, Mario Santiago, Ron Samson-Sayo, Pluton Sindac, Lisa Wilde-Gotto and Norberto Villaroza Jr. Call 4700858, 4700876 and 3014658.

"CHROMESCAPE Series (Blue)," by Aaron Bautista

Bautista at Secord

Aaron Bautista presents his latest paintings in "Chromescapes," until Nov. 18 in Secord Gallery, 2/F Dona Ramona St., Angono, Rizal. In his abstractions, the artist-style suggests a quietly pulsating composition with rhythmic intervals.

Masters at Davao Museum

Ayala Museum and Davao Museum present "Modernism in a Box: Traveling Exhibit of the Philippines Art Loans, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Call 9211111 or 8982-0504 134.

"MANILA Cathedral," by Lim Ling Chuan

Lim at Genesis

Gallery Genesis (4/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City) presents "Works of Lim Ling Chuan," Nov. 12-26. The 12th one-man show of Lim features familiar Manila land-scapes rendered in oil. Call 6339133.

"AUTUMN Mists," by Don Benemar

Benemar at Ayala

Don Benemar presents his third solo exhibit, "Shining through," until Nov. 16 at Gallery Space at Ayala Museum. The artist's fresh scenery, majestic sunsets and peaceful waters. Call 7521117-21 loc 33.

"SILENTIAL"
by Mark Higgins, at Manila Art Gallery

STUDY for "The Magnum-Nature's Evidence," by Impy Pilapil, at Avenue Art Gallery

love from the collection of Leonino Ma-Garcia, who also curates, that highlights the "largely outdated relationship between the visual artist and the art curator in Philippine setting."

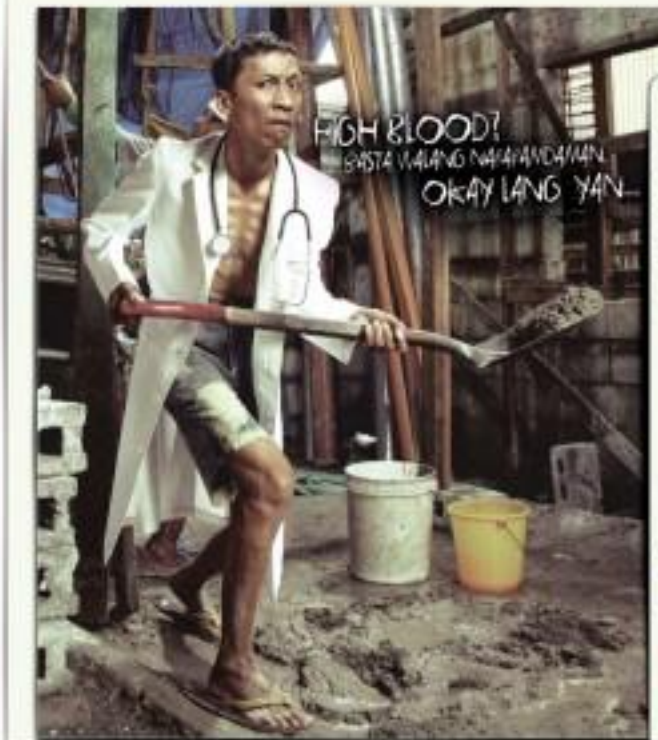
The show, meant to illustrate a fusion of worlds and a meeting of minds (of the artist and the audience), will run from its launch on Nov. 23–Feb. 15 in Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Finally, "Interzone: 12 Human Senses" showcases Impy Pilapil's large sculptures installed in the front and side gardens of Ateneo Art Gallery from Nov. 16 to March 31.

The exhibition note explains it is an interactive installation collective of Rudolph Steiner's 12 senses: completely essential (sense of ego, thought, word and hearing), completely mystical (sense of balance, movement, life and touch), and external-internal (sense of warmth, sight, taste and smell).

The outdoor sculptures are intended for viewers' direct and physical participation, so that they may have "a full, limited experience that also engages the mind."

These are really simple ideas the sensation too can easily comprehend. It's just that too often academicism drains their metacognitive dna inadvertently screening them off from the audience, so that "values" awaits the mystique of being a personal property of the few.



"ABSTRACT by Numbers," 9

"ABSTRACT by Numbers," 3

"OUR Father"

WILFREDO OFFEMARIA'S 'FONT'

Timely meditations on timeless aspirations

By Gary C. Davilos
Contributor

ABSTRACTIONISTS ARE KNOWN to depict the world as how we live it. Wilfredo "Offe" Offemaria is no stranger to this as he presents one unified live experience in "Font," at Blanc Art Space, 35 Circuit Street, 3/F UA Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati.

Offemaria majored in Painting at the University of Santo Tomas. His creative prowess earned him the Grand Prize in the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' Dona Aguinaldo Art Competition. He surely have also garnered citations from the Philip Morris Annual art awards, Art Association of the Philippines Annual, and Shoemart National.

Offe has exhibited in Luxembourg, Belgium, Austria, Germany.

Through broad strokes, metallic colors, textures, numbers and typefaces, the current works assume an opportune meditative stance for us who experience today the contradictions and follies of modernity, in which people become mere figures in the grand **equation of global labor surplus. He have** reached a condition of volatile and restless **uncertainties** life seems to offer nothing **orginal** unfamiliar.

The numbers connote the infinite series, a constant repetition, as we live our days **punctuated by our meager salaries on the** 15th and 30th days of the month, living on **bare subsistence, enough to make** it through days that become weeks, months, **years. Numbers are** commodity as depicted, but our condition is ingenuine, and the **absence of people in these works is an indi**cation of our eventual effacement.

The numbers also connote the limited capitalization we are supposed to achieve **with progress and technological develop**ment.

However, what is staggering is not the economic growth as reported by our **economists but the overwhelming poverty** index.

We live with the illusion that technology connects us when cellular phones and com**puters are such reminders and palpable** manifestations also of our disconnected**ness, isolation, alienation.**

Offemaria's works remind us to see what **we have probably missed in this so-called** modern urban living, how we end up as **commodities...disposable, removable, and** replaceable, and how unfortunately we re**tell our daily dread.**

It is no surprise, therefore, that one of Offe's meditative work is titled "One Is, Once," and the work is littered with the Tagalog version of the prayer written in haphazard, the provisional script of Filipinos. The artist achieves aesthetic distance although we become illiterate once again in our so-called spirituality, for which we claim some sort of ascendancy as we are the only Christian nation in Asia.

Offe perhaps is calling us our Christianity is much deeper than the recitations of formulaic prayers, and Christianity requires of us in opening our eyes to perceive who and what we are in time, when our forebathers started a community along the shore, when life was much simpler but had more sense, and they aspired for harmony with nature.

It is in these trying times that Offe's works become politically significant. The numbers, the fonts and the scripts are not just graffiti, but the proverbial writing on the wall that portends our doom if we remain ignorant of our situation.

"Font" runs until Nov. 17. Call 7526012.

"DIGIT"

LIFESTYLE

Shelley's visual poetry

Briton talks about the romance of children's book illustrating

By Hazel Sta. Romana Cruz
Contributor

THE MANILA CHAPTER OF the Society of Children's Writers and Illustrators had a day-long workshop on illustrating for children under noted British illustrator John Shelley at the British Council in Pasig.

Shelley who is both a children's book illustrator and freelance commercial artist, enthralled everyone with an account of his journey as an artist with much humor and candor.

Born in Birmingham, United Kingdom, to an Anglo-Welsh family, Shelley studied at Bournville School of Art. He then took up Illustration at Manchester Polytechnic under children's illustrator Tony Ross, known for his humorous style.

Coming from a home where his mother was out, by his own description, very literate, and his father, not a reader of fiction, Shelley nevertheless credited his mother for exposing him to the books of her own childhood, cordially nominated in her cupboard. He said his mother's books were very different from what he had ever seen before and totally belonged to another era, another world.

He was mesmerized by what he saw, especially his rare find of an old Arthur Rackham bookmark in a gift shop. "I could not believe it was in a country by a farmer's wife."

SHELLEY SEE JOHN Shelley in Manila

First academic publishing conference

NBDB Board officials—NBDB governor Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, executive director Andrea Pasion-Flores, and governing board chair Benito T. Gonzalez

THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR ACADEMIC publishers recently met in a conference, a first in the history of publishing in the country, at the initiative of the National Book Development Board (NBDB).

Titled "Developing Local Knowledge Through Academic Publishing," the conference was designed to provide a venue for university publishing houses to share experiences and information with each other, and for interested academics from other educational institutions to consider going into publishing.

Keynote speaker was Peter Langscotti, marketing director of Cambridge University Press (CUP), the oldest and one of the biggest university presses in the world. He talked about the mission of the academic press as part of every real university's mandate, and about the Cambridge experience. CUP publishes more than 2,500 new titles every year and has 26,000 titles in print, including E-books.

Ms. Luisa Camagay, director of the UP Press, spoke of the importance attached by UP to its faculty's publishing high-quality peer-reviewed books, and the various mechanisms to enable them to do so.

Ms. Carmen Baptista, director of the Ateneo Press, spoke on "Publishing Practices of a University Press." Mrs. Jack Wigley, assistant director of the UST Publishing House, the oldest university-based press in the country, described UST's ambitious project of publishing 400 new titles to celebrate the University's 400th anniversary in 2011.

Raquel Gray, executive publisher of De La Salle University's Academic Publications Office and former undersecretary of the Department of Education, invited the conference participants to form an association of university- or school-based publishers for their mutual benefit.

Because the conference was attended by representatives from over 50 Philippine universities and colleges nationwide, the NBDB expects the event to stimulate an increase in quantity and quality of publications by Philippine schools, including those based in the regions.

The first academic publishing conference was co-sponsored by the Commission on Higher Education, Pop Savor Philippines, and Central Books Supply.

Shelley's visual poetry

From page D1

The young Shelley scanned his old exercise books with drawings of galleons and fighting figures from the comic book art that he assiduously copied. He remembered fondly an Argentinian DC comic book illustrator José Marín Jorge, mostly of major influences on his art.

Much of his inspiration for his stories comes from the Sutton Park of his Birmingham childhood, "I drive into my past for inspiration." The park had woods and streams and ponds, ideal for any lover of folk tales. "I was always hanging out in the mountainside, reading strong rap siblings. I was scandalized the feeling one because while my older siblings were looking for dates, I was sitting in the park, shooting and looking for fairies."

And on rainy days when staying outdoors was not possible, I'd fill my head with children's books."

Japanese art lover

He has lived in Tokyo for the past 20 years. He left a promising career in advertising and children's books in the UK because of his deep interest in Japanese art.

In examining the art of the British illustrators he so admired like Arthur Rackham ("Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens"), Ernest H. Shepard ("Wind in the Willows"), and Edward Ardizzone ("Little Tim" series), Shelley had realized they were influenced by Japanese 18th century woodblock prints and paintings called Ukiyo-e, which means "pictures of the floating world." It is the main artistic genre of woodblock printing in Japan.

He went to Japan to "sketch and search for the missing link" between comics and Sony."

The Japanese have an intuitive, almost sensual, sense of design and space, he said.

But he still feels like a stranger in Japan, not knowing how to read the language. He feels handicapped and totally dependent on his Japanese wife, Makiko, to read Japanese.

His career in Japan today is divided between 20 percent commercial art and 40 percent illustrations for children's books.

Shelley's award-winning commercial art has been used in animated TV ads, poster and newspaper campaigns. His first major picture book, "The Secret in the Bathroom," won a 1999 Mother Goose Award runner-up. His more recent works are illustrations for a four-volume series in Japanese of the Hans Christian Anderson folk tales to entertainment the bicentennial of the author. Shelley's illustrations for the "Month Brothers" tale borrowed references from Tatsuo Ashiya's history, even from Kagekiyo's fearsome face.

"I do everything in pen and ink. All that I need for my art are pen, ink, nibs, and paper," Shelley said. He does not create computer illustrations, happy with his art that is not overdone and shows evidence of reality.

He also prefers to illustrate the stories of other writers, embarking to having a difficulty in illustrating his own stories and to being inspired by the text of other writers.

His secret in illustrating for children: "Rather than looking at other children, I look for the child in me."

His advice to writers and illustrators: "If you are impressionist or artsy, please what you have to say rather than how to say it."

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People and may be reached at rmirasol@gmail.com.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE FUJITSU

Fujitsu recommends Windows Vista® Home Premium.

LifeBook P7230 is powered by Intel® Centrino® Duo processor technology.

LifeBook U1010

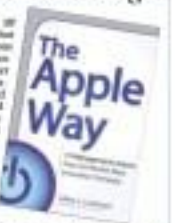
LifeBook P1610

LifeBook P7230

LIFEBOOK Built-In Confidence

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI)

Recommended readings



"THE APPLE WAY" BY Jeffrey L. Cruikshank, author or co-author of numerous books on practicing management, reveals the master plan behind Apple's creative economy business model and divulges the secrets and management principles that keep Apple fan abreast of the curve. Find out how to implement those winning strategies in your organization to trigger a technological and multiple revolution of your own.

At the heart of "Now, Discover Your Strengths," is the Internet-based Strengths Finder® Profile, the product of a 25-year, million-man dollar effort to identify the most prevalent human strengths. The program introduces 34 dominant "themes" and reveals how they can best be translated into personal and career success.

"The Secret" explores the explosive success of book of the same name as well as the bestselling phenomenon it unleashed. Author Rhonda Byrne tells the extraordinary phenomenon, investigates why this little book has allowed so many and answers the haunting questions behind one of the biggest success stories of our time.

An artiste whose plane is found down in the Sahara desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. "The Little Prince" by Antoine Saint-Ex (1943/1983/RH) is sprey and illustrated by Richard Howard is the tale of love and loneliness that has become a beloved classic.

Sometimes simple problems require simple answers. In just 96 pages, "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson uses simple metaphors to encourage readers to embrace change and to adapt in new situations with an open mind and a motivated spirit. It follows four fictional characters as they search for fulfillment in the maze of life.

The books are available at Powerbooks Specialty Store, which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (757-0458 to 29), Megamall (635-2888 to 99), Alabang Town Center (850-9662 to 63), Glorietta 5 (750-7075), Shangri-La (890-9023/24), Robinson's Place Manila (525-3334/ 524-3448), Mall of Asia (556-0241), Festival Supermall (850-7082) and Trinoma (941-1085/82).

IMAGES roughly culled from the Internet

Oliveria's rats and painting

MANY WISH TO BE BORN RICH, BUT A RAT is born the rather way as all his ancestors had been... as scavengers on the constant hunt for food, mainly from the debris of human consumption.

Jayson Oliveria, in his latest show "All Cheez No Substance," opening at 80s space this month, blatantly states such comparison between rats and painting. The images he uses for his paintings, mostly culled from the Internet and filtered by Google through jokes tagged pictures, are all flattened. No subject is deliberated or given higher importance, so a crash conqueror would be a heap of junk thrower into an gaping crunching-machine mouth.

The picture produced is quite messy but never kitschy. Though all the clichés, bad jokes and kitsch-vulgar imagery merge together, Oliveria rather underscores their trash passed-on meaning either by reversing them or by clashing them against other clichés. This, in view of painting, is to consider painting as but one of such purveyors of clichés, especially one that relies heavily on formula, on much recognizable and easily

"All Cheez No Substance" is curated by Roberto Chabet.

80s space is on the third level of Mac Design Building, Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. It is open Tuesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 8162745 or e-mail 80s.space@yahoo.com.ph.

Angono artists paint folk colors

"MOTHER and Child," by Malu Francisco

"HARVEST" by Jun Espiritu

"BLOWING Bubbles," by Rodin Jallow

"GUILTY ANGELS" is a group exhibition in Dalena Botanicals Arts, Cara Sunara, Cina Vicente Lucino Alabang Town Center, Ayala Alabang.

Featured are the works of Angono artists such as Felix Amancio, Jun Espiritu, Mitch Ustiri, Manuel Umabal, Rolly Alberto, Marie Fredericos, Carlos "Tanong" Francisco, Isabel Cruzamono.

The show runs until Nov. 15. Call 9868869 or 0920-2180116.

Artist. Activist.
What will Jim be next?

Jim Paredes, 56.
Photographer.

Because time is of the essence. Because opportunity knocks but once. Because each day is meant to be seized. Because I only have this one life. And with it, just one chance to do what I really want.

That holds true even at my age. Even now that cell regeneration – the body's ability to repair itself, has slowed down. That's why I eat right and rest well. And I take HavitAll Multivitamins. It has the right combination of vitamins that help enhance normal cell regeneration - to keep my body functioning at optimum levels. So I can take on whatever passion strikes me next.

I say, if you want to do something, do it now! Or you may never get to do it at all.

THE NEXT YOU starts with HAVit ALL
ENHANCES NORMAL CELL REGENERATION

awsm!
St. Luke's Medical Center
Be awesome inside and out!
BEAUTY is SKIN DEEPER
Dermatology goes much deeper than just treating skin imperfections.
St. Luke's DermCon | DermCon treats skin problems and minor conditions that require utmost medical attention. DermCon provides diagnostic and therapeutic services with state-of-the-art technology in the hands of internationally trained dermatologists. Its services range from acne treatment to skin cancer management.
Benefits of TENOR RF™ Treatment
St. Luke's DermCon is the only dermatology center in the country that uses the newest RF Pixel to tighten skin, reduce skin texture and minimize scars. The US FDA approved TENOR RF™ has three capabilities:
Regular RF
To rejuvenate body skin
Regular RF
To tighten skin
RF Pixel
To reduce pigmentation and minimize scars
Call 7251-8181 local 8888
Visit www.stlukes.com.ph
30% discount on the 5th session
For appointments at your convenient time
St. Luke's Medical Center
Quezon City | Global City
7251-8181 local 8888 • www.stlukes.com.ph

"PICASSO Series" II

Orlina's new glass works in 'Essence'

"MT MASSLINE"

"GREAT Expectations"

GLASS SCULPTOR RAMON ORLINA shows his latest masterpieces in Ad Santa Gallery, 3/F, Shoppe at Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 9211982). The exhibit will run from Nov. 17-30.

The bulk of the work consists of carved Asahi glass with its familiar green color the artist uses for various subjects, abstract or figurative. The Mother and Child theme is rendered in cubistic form or in the figurative mode with soft, curvilinear lines.

Orlina continues to explore the malleability of female nudes in an interplay of exterior and interior to which the figure exhibits a fascinating complexity of inner form with its delicate crevices, passages and chambers that can absorb the viewer's attention for a length of time.

He also ventures in an earlier series, the "Sculpting" sculptures, which focuses on the female breast. He resumes the earlier "Pinnacle" series, marked by incised tattoo designs on the surface of the figure.

Says art critic Red Paler Perez: "Orlina is the architect-turned-sculptor who has made glass and crystals his particular interest and signature, framing a career with simply faceted glass blocks, he has through the years turned his intimacies to evidences of glass into elegant vestigeches of green fire. Eventually the voluminousness of the nude was suggested."

The works bear the marks of the artist's hand in the various processes of cutting, grinding, polishing. From carved green Asahi glass, he experimented with white crystal of a high lead content, as well as color in precious pieces of Swarovski cut or other hues.

In this exhibit, he continues with some pieces of frosted glass, which require a slightly different process, and handles another colored Chinese crystal with its striking tone, as well as black glass. But a new discovery is in the bronze cast "Picasso Genius" II, executed in the lost wax process on the glass sculpture with the resulting figure in oxidized bronze.

The largest work in the show is "SS, Melding," a complex composition of five pieces of carved glass placed together.

Says an envoi Alice Guillermo: "Mr. Melding' in carved Asahi glass of darker tones shows two different passages of ascent to the mountain from its base to its many-winding and turning paths leading to its main peak with cliffs and ravines along the way. These are powerfully rendered in glass, its interlocked cuts and facets that constantly reveal unexpected vistas and surprises, indeed, a piece for hours of admiring contemplation."

"MAGAMAG" XIV

7-ELEVEN®
STILL ROCKIN' AT 25
Celebrating 25 years in the Philippines
FEATURING:
6 CYCLE MIND
BARBIE ALMALBIS
CALLALILY
RIDE TO FAME
ITCHYWORMS
MOJOFLY
OVERTONE
PROTEIN SHAKE
SANDWICH
SPONGECOLA
SUGARFREE
AND MANY MORE...
7PM - NOVEMBER 16, 2007
RIVERBANKS AMPHITHEATER, MARIKINA CITY
ADMISSION IS FREE
Coca-Cola
ABS CBN

LIFESTYLE

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"—with its 1.5-ton, S$2M flying car—is one of the largest and grandest musicals to visit Singapore

Spectacular, spectacular!

2 out of 3 Filipinos are proficient in English.
Let's make it 3 out of 3.
Study at
VERNON TAPALLA'S

By Ronnie C. Burgos

IT'S ACT 2 AND THE children in tonight's crowd are showing their displeasure as the sinister character in the musical "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," ongoing as til Dec. 9 at Esplanade Theatre in Singapore.

Sure, a life-size rat has just floated on water and frozen in the air, real dogs have dashed across the stage and the lead actor has just done a wonderfully intricate dance using bamboo sticks.

But why the booing when a bogeyman called the Child Catcher steps onstage?

"When I stand there, I want them to go 'woooo!'" said Richard O'Brien, the actor who plays the genuinely creepy villain in the two-hour and 45-minute musical.

The British stage actor, who is known for penning the cult musical "The Rocky Horror Show" and hosting the famous TV game show "The Crystal Maze" in the United Kingdom, recalled an incident revealing just how influential his character was.

"I was in a shop in London with my daughter once (during the West End run in 2002) and this little girl came up and asked if I was the Child Catcher. I said: 'Yes, I am, so you should be very careful.' And she cried! I had to get my daughter to tell her that I'm a nice daddy to calm her down," he said with a laugh.

He added that in pop culture, his character "ranks very high on the villain demographic." "He's got a pointy nose and pointy ears—he's not human. I can't imagine him going home to sleep, anyway!"

Colorful villains

Aside from the Child Catcher, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," based on both the original novel by Ian Fleming and the 1968 cult movie starring Dick Van Dyke, has other equally colorful characters.

Richard O'Brien as the Child Catcher; (below) David Henry and Louise Penrhyn as the Baron and Baroness Bomburst

There include Baron and Baroness Bomburst and Vulgari as agents from and from, among others.

As Baron and Baroness Bomburst, David Henry and Louise Penrhyn toy with the children of Vulgaria with their demented ways while delighting audiences with their comic timing and delivery.

Describing their characters as a kind of "Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun," Penrhyn described Adolfgaria as a place where "things are slightly skewed."

Added Henry, "The Baron wishes with an iron hand but his mannerisms is nice. He tries to turn painfully with modern etiquette who could leave people killed just like that, but also have some strange undercurrent in their lives as well."

For Henry, a tall man with a face that can look fierce, the key was getting in touch with his childlike side. For much of the time, he is onstage, he bounces around like an overgrown kid, admitting he may be wacky and pouting when things don't go his way.

"I think kids laugh at me at times because they recognize their own similar behavior, but it's the adults that know what it really is," Henry said. "Every role is probably looking up there going, 'That's my husband.'"

For Baron and Baroness both seem a tad insensitive to the ruling a country. Besides the Baron's temper tantrums, the Baroness is afraid of children to the point that they employ the evil Child Catcher to round up any kid (but ellps for) Adgaria.

Penrhyn also decided to play the Baroness as if she were slightly "medicated," with several sense of reality. In one scene, the Baroness accidentally shoots one of her subjects while she is shooting a gun, pretending the moment with a doll "who-ooo-ooey."

"We know we're playing 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang,' but we did talk about different kinds of eras and how there's no consistency there and we relate the life and there's that suitable," Penrhyn said. "That kind of stuff, if you take it into some quirky childlike imagination, it can be a lot of fun."

And it's been well-received. "They've sat there at three peak powers," said Jenny Cordell, chief executive officer of Londbox Theatrical Productions which produces the show with David Adkins Enterprises. "It's sort of a rule-defying performance for the (non-)children."

Comic icons

The tongue-in-cheek allusions to Nazi Germany continue with the musical's resident comic tag team, Boris and Goran,

SPECTACULAR S3

JAMES Bunning and Cornelius Clarke portray Boris and Goran.

STARAUCTION No. 3

SAM CVT143 RSDL CONDO
MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF MANORS
Carmona, Cavite
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Vill)

FLOOR AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
35.04 sqm.	P 605,920
38.35 sqm.	P 682,000
67.27 sqm.	P1,642,627
67.81 sqm.	P1,641,247
73.30 sqm.	P1,687,758

SAM CVT147 RSDL GOLF LOTS
MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Carmona, Cavite
(near SLEX-Golf & Resort Village)

LOT AREA	MIN. BID PRICE
456 sqm.	P 1,459,008
526 sqm.	P 1,560,008
578 sqm.	P 1,734,008
582 sqm.	P 1,746,008
632 sqm.	P 1,696,008

FOR DETAILS, CALL THE PROPERTY FORUM HALL, MONDAY TO SUNDAY, 9 AM TO 9 PM
TEL NOS.: (02) 554-0000 | (02) 554-8708 | CELLPHONE NO.: 0919-0000000

How do I get out of here?

Your greatest candid photo is captured in a small camera screen... waiting for you to Free it. Display it. Let it Live.

Print it. Kodak Express
Digital Solutions

Log on to www.kodakexpress.com for more information on digital services.

MESSAGES

Congratulations to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on the occasion of your 4th National Skin Disease Detection and Prevention Week (SKINFEEK) to be conducted on November 12-16, 2007.

Your firm commitment to the continuous upgrade and enhancement of your knowledge and skills in the Dermatology is well deserved and the PMA can only attest to the fact that your society has indeed been a worthy partner in the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), allow me to express my sincere congratulations to your society headed by it President, Dr. Arnulfo Paliza for making this event a resounding success.

Mabuhay and I love you all!

JOSE ASA SABILL M. D.
President

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the
PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY
is a recognized Specialty Society of the
Philippine College of Physicians,
a Specialty Division of the
Philippine Medical Association

This certification is issued as per request of the
President of the Society, Dr. Arnulfo C. Paliza.

Given this 7th day of November 2007.

JOSE ASA SABILL M. D.
President

Greetings to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on its 55th Anniversary that coincides with the observance of the 4th National Skin Disease and Prevention Week (SKINFEEK), its 51st Annual Convention and the Conference of Dermatology.

As you emphasize continuous advancement of your like to extend my for the support and achievements of your Society. May PDS continue to support our efforts to improve the dermatological health of our countrymen.

I encourage you to consolidate your efforts and resources into common convergence points as we continue to work for the attainment of our common vision of a healthy citizenry and a progressive society.

Congratulations and mabuhay keeping labal!

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

Warmest congratulations to the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) on the occasion of your 55th Anniversary year this November 2007.

The Philippine College of Physicians appreciates your proactive role in Health Reform Order advocacy and is including in your activities a Disease Prevention Week towards a lot of public school children including their parents and teachers.

We look forward to a professionally rewarding learning experience for all the delegates during your 51st PDS Annual Convention and we wish you success in all your future endeavors.

FERNANDO G. AYUYAO, M.D., FPCP
President

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the
PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY (PDS)
is recognized by the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP)
as the sole professional society of dermatologists
that can represent such a subspecialty of dermatologists
in the Philippines under the umbrella of PCP.

This certification is being issued upon the request of PDS
for whatever purpose it may serve them.

19 June 2007, City of Pasig, Metro Manila

FERNANDO G. AYUYAO, M.D., FPCP
President

PDS OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD 2007-2008

ARNULFO C. PALIZA, MD
President
GEORGINA PANTOJA-BURE, MD
Vice-President
DONNA MARIE L. SARMIENA, MD
Secretary
MARIA LUZ G. AQUINO, MD
Treasurer
Atty. LORNA T. DIEZ, MD
Immediate Past President

Executive:
Marvelous S. Cruz, MD
Ma. Victoria U. Ocampo, MD
Lutgardo A. Tuscan-on, MD
Ma. Jeronilo S. Gabriel, MD
Daisy S. Samad, MD
Rosalina T. Nadela, MD
Jocosan G. Obispo, MD

Committee Chairpersons:

Georgina C. Pantoja-Bure, MD
Annual Convention

Lilian L. Villaluerte, MD
Constitution and By-Laws

Eleanor G. Tait-Chan, MD
Continuing Medical Education

Lilia O. Santiago, MD
Ethics

Clarissa G. Castillo, MD
Finance / Ways & Means

Eleanor L. Lotan, MD
Membership

Ma. Socorro W. Tabula, MD
Publications & Library

Normal S. Basan, MD
Outreach Program

Arnold C. Yu, MD
Legal Affairs

Evelyn R. Consuegra, MD
Board of Examiners

Rosalina T. Nadela, MD
Board of Accreditation

Leonora A. Saratan, MD
Public Relations & External Affairs

Ma. Jeronie J. Samson, MD
Research

Francisco C. Rivera IV, MD
Human Resources & Development

Lucia Lourdes C. Endrinal, MD
Student

Haby R. Salmad, MD
Subspecialties

Georgina C. Pantoja-Bure, MD
Membership Anniversary

THE CERTIFIED PDS DERMATOLOGISTS

PDS on its 55th year continues to be the ONLY dermatology society recognized - by the Philippine Medical Association the ONLY dermatology society accepted - by the Philippine College of Physicians

OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Arsuffo C. Pulia, MD
Vice-President: Georgina C. Bautista, MD
Secretary: Donna L. Sarsoza, MD
Treasurer: Ma. Lou G. Aquino, MD
Immediate Past President: Ma. Lorna F. Tee, MD
Board of Directors
Marcellano S. Cruz, MD
Ma. Victoria C. Ibazeta, MD
Lourdes A. Encarnacion, MD
Ma. Victoria G. Gabriel, MD
Daisy R. Ismael, MD
Rosalina E. Nadela, MD
Alvin Innocent M. Obispo, MD

55 YEARS

PDS Philippine Dermatological Society

PHYSICIANS DEDICATED TO SKIN HEALTH

"Problema sa Balat, PDS and Katapat!"

PDS- ACCREDITED TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

Davao Medical Center
East Avenue Medical Center
Jose R.Reyes Memorial Hospital
Makati Medical Center
Ospital ng Maynila
Research Institute of Tropical Medicine
Skin and Cancer Foundation, Inc.
University of the East-
Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center
University of the Philippines-
Philippine General Hospital
University of Santo Tomas Hospital

SKINWEEK is a project of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS). It is a nationwide campaign to promote proper dermatologic care through public education and early skin disease detection and/or prevention. This is consistent with the PDS vision to lead the country in the attainment of healthy skin for Filipinos through service, training and research activities.

SKINWEEK ACTIVITIES

November 12-17
Poster Exhibits in hospitals
Posters on basic care for healthy skin, hair and nails (information on the common skin diseases and Prehydration capsule

November 13
15th Annual Residents' Research Forum, Northeast Greenhills Association Clubhouse, San Juan

November 14
Pre-convention Workshop
"Defying Aging...the Science of Rejuvenation"

November 15
PDS Fellowship Night

November 16
PDS Annual Business Meeting

November 15 - 16
Research Poster Contest
31st Annual Convention and
6th Regional Conference of Pediatric Dermatology

"Ang Batang Walang Kuto, Mas Madaling Matuto!"

Pediculosis capitis, or "KUTO" is the third most prevalent among school children according to the Department of Education

PDS in cooperation with the Philippine College of Physicians, Philippine Medical Association, Department of Education and Department of Health

HEHO (Health Education Behavior Order) Project activities:
- Lectures/fact forum for parents and teachers in selected public schools
- Disinfecting of school children by the school nurses and/or teachers
- Physical examination by the dermatologists
- Distribution of medicine to the affected school children
- Poster display regarding the prevention of "kuto"

PDS, with the SKINWEEK, ultimately aims to uplift the health status especially of marginalized Filipinos, through patient education and proper dermatologic care, by:

Emphasizing the importance of the skin in overall health;
Focusing on basic skin hygiene through self-examination and;
Teaching the need for seeking early care and treatment of

8th National Skin Disease Detection And Prevention Week (Skinweek)

Proclamation No. 110 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

November 11-17, 2007

S K I N W E E K

ALL OVER THE PHILIPPINES:
Community outreach thru free clinics and medicines
Public education and information thru posters and lectures

FOR THE DOCTORS:
Research report on [illegible]
[illegible]

31st PDS ANNUAL CONVENTION and 6th REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

"Nurturing the Asian Skin Arrondial in Seriatrix"
November 15 - 16, 2007
EDSA Shangri-la Hotel, Mandaluyong City

Pre-Convention Workshop
"Defying Aging...the Science of Rejuvenation"
November 14, 2007

THE SCOPE OF REAL DERMATOLOGY:

From Beauty...
Dealing with Pigment Problems
– What's New? What's Best!
Non-Ablative Rejuvenation
– Options and combinations:
Skin tightening: Devices, Effects and Side-effects
Fractional Resurfacing or Micro-needling! How True for Old Issues
– Injectables: botox, fillers, etc.
Volume in the Aging Face: To Grafting or Fillers!

From Conventional Treatments...
Approaches to Disorders of Pigmentation
Pityriasis Rubra in Scleroderma
Controversies in Pediatric Dermatology

From Babies...
Neonatal Dermatology
Atopic Dermatitis
Office Procedures in Pediatrics
Use of Steroids in Children
Alopecia Areata in Children
Neonatal Lupus
Juvenile Dermatomyositis

...To Serious Skin Diseases
Immunobullous
Disease in Children
Yeast Infections in Dermatology
Alopecia: Practical Tips and Insights for the Clinician
Connective Tissue Diseases
Chronic Urticaria
Emerging Infectious Diseases

...To New Technology
Fresh Lasers and Lights vs Plasma & Jelars
Bovine Cartilage: A Breakthrough in Skincare
Advance Adipose Derived Stem Cell Protein Extract (AADPE) on Skin Rejuvenation and Hair Growth

...To Adults
Puzzling Pigmentary Problems
Immunomodulatory in Lupus Reactions
Cultural Practices and Contact Dermatitis in the Philippines
Adverse Drug Reactions: Local Experiences

SPEAKERS

From Foreign Experts...
Dr. Henry H. L. Chan (Hong Kong)
Dr. Lawrence F. Eichenfield (USA)
Dr. Bernice Kraftchik (Canada)
Dr. Joyce Lim (Singapore)
Dr. Jaruta I. Hardford (USA)
Dr. Byung-Soon Park (Korea)
Dr. Maritza I. Perez (USA)
Dr. Somphak Singalavanija (Thailand)
Dr. Sonia Stander (Germany)
Dr. Titi Lestari Sugito (Indonesia)
Dr. Yong Kwang Tay (Singapore)
Dr. Patrick Trevisiol (France)

...To Our Local Gems:
Dr. Monica E. Alfarero
Dr. Christine B. Bernal
Dr. Adolfo E. Bonzon Jr.
Dr. Ma. Lorna T. Tee
Dr. Joseph Amado C. Galvez
Dr. Nancy Garcia-Tan
Dr. Florencio Lucero
Dr. Diana Pascual
Dr. Ma. Rea Silva-Mallari
Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy
Dr. Ma. Luisa Ventola
Dr. Lilian L. Villahermosa

PURPOSE OF YOUR SKIN

- **The largest organ of the body, covering everything else we have!**
- **Makes us radiant to hear or cold properly**
- **It is like a mirror, to warn us if one of our inner organs is starting to get sick**

To keep your skin, hair and nails healthy, do not go just anywhere and get a facial and a body scrub. Your skin deserves the expert care of a dermatologist.

HOW DID YOUR DOCTOR BECOME A "DERMATOLOGIST"?

The Philippines has our own set of requirements as to what makes a real dermatologist. **FIRST**, after graduating from a medical school, he should pass the national Medical Board Examination.

SECOND, he would apply for a Residency Training in Dermatology in any of the reputable accredited training institutions in the PDS.

THIRD, he has to complete a minimum of three years in general dermatology.

It is only after finishing this basic training that the doctor can now be called a "Dermatologist".

LASTLY, the Dermatologist would then take the PDS Board Exam in Dermatology.
The PDS sets the standards for training and specialty board examination for dermatology in the Philippines, as regulated by PMA and PLE.

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD SEEK CONSULTATION WITH A PDS DERMATOLOGIST

Your PDS dermatologist has been trained to spot possible problems, from the smallest flaw to the most complicated diseases, and could offer you the best and safest treatment for your condition.

So, you should see a dermatologist:
To diagnose and treat skin diseases
Acne, rashes, boils, warts, fungal infections, eczemas, psoriasis and skin cancer
To provide laser and surgical solutions
Including minimally invasive surgeries, skin cancer excision, scrubbers and scars
Mohs surgery, tumescent liposuction, non-surgical hair sculpting
To enhance one's beauty
Rejuvenation for skin discolorations, wrinkles, scars, spider veins and hair removal treatments for balding
To guide you in choosing skin care products and procedures
Scientific tests for truth behind the claims of non-dermatologists
To prevent future problems
How commercial way of avoiding hair loss, sun protections and nail care

AFFILIATION WITH A HOSPITAL

Not all skin problems brought to the Dermatologist are for "beauty's sake". Some skin problems can become really complicated or may just be a part of a bigger problem that the help of other doctor specialists are needed.
Your Dermatologist should be able to readily refer you to the specialist you need, and admit you to a hospital he/she is affiliated with.

So, remember, whether you need medical, surgical or cosmetic treatment for your skin, you can find a PDS dermatologist who meets your needs.

PHILIPPINE DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS ARE DIPLOMATE/FELLOWS/DIPLOMATE/FELLOWS IN THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

For Inquiries, call PDS Secretariat: Tel. (632)723-0101 local 2015 • Website: http://www.pds.org.ph • Email: pds_org@pldtdsl.net

UST inaugurates Nick Joaquin reading corner

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS will inaugurate tomorrow the Nick Joaquin reading corner at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library building.

The reading corner will be named Espacio de Quijano de Manila, referring to the writer's famous *sobre de pluma* as well as his romantic and erudite exhibitionist persona and journey of the physical and metaphysical byways and alleys of Manila, the Ever Loyal and Noble City.

To lead the ceremonies at 4 p.m. is UST Rector Dilgadillas Fr. Rolando Valle de la Rosa, OP. Assisting him is Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, UST professor of literature.

Located at the Humanities section on the fifth floor of the art-story library, the reading corner consists of the Nonlocal Artist's library bequeathed to the Pontifical University upon his death in 2004.

Joaquin received an Associate in Arts degree from UST. He achieved initial literary success for "La Naval de Manila," which won First Prize in an essay contest sponsored by the Dominicans in the 1940's. Joaquin later will become a Dominican novitiate, but left the seminary to pursue a writing career.

In 1974, Joaquin was named National Artist for Literature. In 1996, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, Journalism and Creative Communication.

Espacio de Quijano de Manila is flanked by undergrad shelves. The corner has a dedicated memorial and reading desk designed by UST Fine Arts professor Rod Rivera, son of Conco, the late stained-glass artist.

For the inaugural, veteran stage actress Daisy Canseco Rogers will perform excerpts from Joaquin's most important dramatic work, "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

To sing the Dominican blessing and "Kanoon Ka, Iyog!" are the UST Liturgikon. Meanwhile, soprano Thess Perez of the UST Conservatory of Music will sing "Gaudeo del Mare Irato" and "Hanoo o Is Suatsuru Virgin del Pilar." To read Joaquin's poem "Invite" is young puppet performer Angela Isaacs.

The inaugural ceremonies of the UST Espacio de Quijano de Manila are open to the public.

Cell 711 3934 or 4061 611 loc. 0234

Lumbera translates dramatic works of Joaquin, Lorca, Shakespeare

NATIONAL ARTIST FOR Literature Bienvenido Lumbera presents "Entablado Klasiko," the Filipino translations of key works of world theater, including Sen. Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino."

Published by the theater department of Ateneo de Manila University Press, the translation series will be launched Nov. 16, 2:30 p.m., at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute Virgilio of the University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters.

Aside from "Portrait" (Filipino title: "Retrato ng Artista Bilang Pilipino"), "Entablado Klasiko" has also translations of Federico Garcia Lorca's "Bodas de Sangre" ("Kasal ni Dugo"), William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar" ("Julio Cesar"), and Moises Goldy's "Rasmain" ("Kasunog").

Lumbera is now when he went to the UST Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in the 1950's to take up Life Humanities, but became enamored "world literature," and his translations are just an extension of that interest.

A professor emeritus of UP, Lumbera received the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, Journalism, and Creative Communication in 1993. He was named National Artist in 2006.

Jollibee Delivery

Asian Express

Get a chance to win a trip to **Hong Kong, Bangkok** or **Singapore** or one of **20 iPod Shuffles** every time you avail of **Jollibee Express Delivery Service!**

And double your chances of winning when you upgrade any Coca-Cola drink.

So call

8-7000 Jollibee Delivery

and you may soon be off to an Asian holiday!

HONGKONG

THAILAND

SINGAPORE

Spectacular . . .

From page 11

played by Jason Dennys and Cornelius Clarke, respectively.

"Poor running joke? "Groaning says he's Scottish, Cornelius is Irish and they're trying to be Malpractice trying to be English," Cundell quipped.

Cundell revealed that Dennys and Clarke improvise on the spot whenever there is a slight delay during a show, which can crop up from a minor technical glitch like hinge to dogs running into the audience.

"Dirty Dishy Bang Bang" is a hugely expensive production in which offering cost is the ultimate crowd-pleaser, but pay close attention to the audience's reaction when the villain sits on stage. One would notice that Dennys and Clarke get the biggest laughs, many of the laughs coming from gags they've created together, independent of the script.

"What Jason and Cornelius are doing — it's just entertainment," said Cundell. "They've been magical since the first day of re-hearsal."

From the clutterific Child Catcher to the inventions' Boulevard to the bungling Boris and Goran, it would seem like the most "evil" roles are also the most interesting.

Kevin Kennedy, who plays the economic inventor Caractacus Potts, had previously played the Child Catcher himself in the United Kingdom tour. "For three actors, the baddies are always fun," Cundell said.

World record

One of the largest materials to visit Singapore, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" showcases the 1.5-ton car (which cost over £500,000 or $1 million to build) that flies across the stage using state-of-the-art animation technology. The original from the London production, the car holds the Guinness World Record as the most expensive prop in the history of British theater.

With a full company of 105 (including eight dogs), sensational sets, delightful costumes and stunning special effects, this action-packed adventure is the story of the magical flying car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and its inventor Caractacus Potts, who, with his children Jemima (Gabi Reynolds) and Jeremy (Samuel Wright), alongside Truly Scrumptious (Marissa Dunlop) and Grandpa Potts (Tony Adams), outwit the Baron and Baroness and Child Catcher in their quest to capture the car.

"Chitty has at its heart two fundamental themes: how to protect one's children and to fly, told through a magical journey. It's a story of love and adventure, good and evil and a family in search of something missing—all brought together by a fantastic car," Cundell said.

Directed by Adrian Noble, who was also at the helm of the West End and Broadway productions, the musical features the songs "Truly Scrumptious," "Toot Sweets," "Hushabye Mountain" and the Oscar-nominated title song composed by the Sherman Brothers. The show is adapted from the original film by Jeremy Sams with design by Anthony Ward, choreography by Gillian Lynne and lighting by Mark Henderson.

"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" is a rare ball of candy-coated, quirky delight, strange-looking characters and the titular car with a name that's a mouthful. That said, Cundell couldn't think of a shorter nickname. "It would be a travesty to call it anything else."

"Hit Of Barbour"

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernnie G. Valuela

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Dennis' love menace

I TEXTED HOSPET TROLLO MYO Cristine Reyes for their semi-interview for the latter and Carlene Aguilar's endorsement commercial. But as of press time, they haven't replied. Cristine is said to be the sweetest girl in town although both have denied it.

Dennis and Carlene claim they are no longer together even if they have a love child. But it seems that their actions don't jive with their words.

If there's really nothing going on between Dennis and Cristine, why would Carlene confront Cristine? And if Dennis and Carlene have really parted ways, then she should not give a hoot who Dennis is dating. Is he torn between two "COs"?

It's "C" is to believe. What a love menace Dennis has gotten himself into! But knowing Dennis, he's not one who would deliberately hurt anybody's feelings.

Perhaps it's just a bad case of postpartum blues for Carlene as Cristine prepares to the dark.

So in love

Maui Taylor is blissfully in love with Kent, her BF of one year and a half. He's a 30-year-old architect. They are now in Honolulu celebrating their anniversary.

Maui Taylor and boyfriend Kent

I texted Maui if they have any marriage plans. "I'm actually afraid of the big M word," she said. "Kent's keeping it secret for its two years' time but it hasn't crossed my mind yet."

For now, what matters is that Maui has found a love Taylor-made for her.

Fashion ambassador

Jolina Magdangal is going to shoot her movie with Gabby Concepcion this month. Meanwhile, she's busy with her role as the ebay Style Ambassador. Jolina has been tapped to be the ambassador of the online trading site during the launching of ebay Philippines.

Jolina' unique fashion sense has gone global.

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

'Got Milby'?

Juan Milby Inocles who went to have a T-shirt that has "Got Milby?" printed on it may e-mail Lei at got_milby@yahoo.com. The shirt was worn by Inoi's adoring audience at his recent Vancouver concert with Hale. Visit http://i24.photobucket.com/albums/v44/All_Jolin_Pics/gotmilby-edit.jpg.

Wonder if Tito Lolit Solis would be game enough to wear one.

More knows best

Speaking of Dennis, I asked his cool mom Rita how she feels about the latest events in her son's colorful life.

"Whoever Dennis ends up with, I hope she will be as good as he is. I told him to be wise in choosing a partner," she said. "I'm so proud to be a lola. Callie looks like Dennis except that he's eight. We are planning to take Carlene's parents about the separation and support for the baby."

What can she say about Carlene and Cristine? "I'm not close to either of them. It's up to Dennis who he wants. I'll support him in all his decisions. I just advised him to negotiate matters for the sake of my son."

Carlene and Cristine may

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS

Over 1,000 places you can reload your prepaid.

Get ₱1,000 back when you reload with the

BPI Express MOBILE Rewarding Connections Promo

Get ₱1,000 cash-back
OR a
FREE Nokia cellphone when you bank with BPI Express Mobile.

₱1,000 CASH-BACK

Reload your Globe Prepaid using BPI Express Mobile.
Just load up ₱250 worth every month for 12 months and get ₱1,000 back.

Promo period: November 12, 2007 to February 29, 2008*
For DTI-NCR Permit No. 5694, series of 2007.

PLUS! Get a chance to WIN a Nokia N70

60 lucky depositors will win a Nokia N70 Music Edition mobile phone.
Earn a raffle entry every time you make any transaction through BPI Express Mobile.

Promo period: August 15, 2007 to January 31, 2008
For DTI-NCR Permit No. 5856, series of 2007.

For inquiries, please call 89-100 or visit www.bpiexpressonline.com

NOKIA Globe

Anytime, anywhere banking made more rewarding.

BPI We'll take you further.

SM CINEMA

movietime SHOWTIME

Your life as a movie

IMAX

CENTER Stage

First Name

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIE SCHEDULE EXPRESS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

1 LIONS for LAMBS - THX
2 GAME PLAN
3 EL CANTANTE
4 BALLS of FURY
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 GHOST SON
7 ATAKIL for RENT / 30 DAYS of NIGHT
8 indieSine: 2 MINUTES LATER
9 HIDE and SEEK
10 LUST CAUTION

ERMITA

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 ATAKIL for RENT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 GHOST SON
5 BALLS of FURY
6 LUST CAUTION
7 HIDE and SEEK
1 EL CANTANTE
2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS for LAMBS

LUST CAUTION

Still

SHOWING

Robinsons Movieworld

galleria ermita

metro east dasmarinas

imus

METRO EAST

1 BALLS of FURY / 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 GHOST SON
3 GAME PLAN
4 EL CANTANTE
5 LUST CAUTION
6 HIDE and SEEK
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 ATAKIL for RENT

NOVALICHES

1 GAME PLAN
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 30 DAYS of NIGHT
4 HIDE and SEEK

PIONEER

1 EL CANTANTE
2 GAME PLAN
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

STA. ROSA

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 HALLOWEEN
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 HIDE and SEEK

LIPA

1 UNREST
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 MR. WOODCOCK
4 RETRIBUTION

DASMARINAS

1 UNREST
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 LUST CAUTION
4 HIDE and SEEK

IMUS

1 HIDE and SEEK
2 BALLS of FURY
3 LUST CAUTION
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

ANGELES

1 WEDDING DAZE
2 HIGHLANDER
3 HIDE and SEEK
4 MR. WOODCOCK

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 REVOLUTION

STARMILLS

1 MR. WOODSTOCK
2 HALLOWEEN
3 RESIDENT EVIL 3
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 BUTTERFLY on a WHEEL
6 HIGHLANDER

BACOLOD

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 HIGHLANDER
3 indieSine: GULONG
4 HIDE and SEEK
5 RETRIBUTION
6 MR. WOODCOCK

ILOILO

1 HALLOWEEN
2 HIDE and SEEK
3 UNREST
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 STARDUST
6 RESIDENT EVIL 3

A FILM BY SOCRIE FERNANDEZ

GULONG is a moving love story of a couple separated by time, who find themselves together again in the sunset of their lives. It is about friendship, love and life. The story is told from the point of view of Apan, a small, abandoned boy whose quest for an old bicycle reveals the stuff he is made of...

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD

November 07 to 13

ENTERTAINMENT

F1

NOW ON DISC

'Ocean's Thirteen'

DIRECTOR STEVEN Soderbergh's third installment of the all-star series "Ocean's Thirteen" is now available on DVD under Warner Home Video.

Starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Al Pacino, Brad Pitt, Don Cheadle, Casey Affleck, Bernie Mac, Ellen Barkin and Scott Caan, the movie takes viewers into a whirlwind ride with the smoothest con men in

town.

This time, the gang is around to settle the score with ruthless casino magnate Willie Bank (Pacino).

'Rome 2'

HBO Entertainment has released the TV drama sequel "Rome 2."

The year is 44 B.C. Julius Caesar has been assassinated and dictatorship has descended on the Roman Republic, paving the way for power players jockeying for position.

The movie stars Kevin McKidd, Lindsay Duncan, Ray Stevenson, Tim Pulle, Polly Walker and Ciaran Hinds.

'Lucky You'

A professional poker player's (Eric Bana) astounding luck at the table fails to translate into his love life.

He attempts to win the World Series of Poker while earning the affections of a beautiful Vegas singer (Drew Barrymore).

Robert Duvall also stars in this movie now available on DVD under Warner Home Video.

"BRILLIANTLY WRITTEN."

"IMPASSIONED." "COMPELLING."

"ON-THE-MARK PERFORMANCES by Redford, Cruise and Streep."

ROBERT REDFORD MERYL STREEP TOM CRUISE

LIONS FOR LAMBS

NOW SHOWING

now showing at indieSine

2 minutes later

watch this only at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

OPENS NOVEMBER 14

AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS" COMES ANOTHER TERRIFYING MASTERPIECE FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"

BOOGEYMAN 2

FEAR. IN THE FLESH.

AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 LIONS FOR LAMBS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 BALLS OF FURY	4 STEEL FOR BRIDE
GLORIETTA 4	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 EL CANTANTE	3D LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	4 LUST CAUTION	5 BUTTERFLY ON A WHEEL	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 BRIDEZILLA
GREENBELT 1	1 LUST CAUTION		2 EL CANTANTE	
GREENBELT 3	1D LIONS FOR LAMBS		2D THE GAME PLAN	
	3 LUST CAUTION	4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1D THE GAME PLAN		2 LIONS FOR LAMBS	
	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LUST CAUTION	5 EL CANTANTE	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 WE OWN THE NIGHT	2 BALLS OF FURY	3 WEDDING DAZE	4 HALLOWEEN
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GAME PLAN		2 LUST CAUTION	
	3 EL CANTANTE	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS	5 WE OWN THE NIGHT	
TRINOMA	1 LUST CAUTION	2 EL CANTANTE	3 WE OWN THE NIGHT	4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
	5 BALLS OF FURY	6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT	7D THE GAME PLAN	

AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

Glorietta — Christmas Concert Series feat. KUH LEDESMA, November 15, 8pm | Activity Center

Greenbelt — Dress Mess Christmas, November 16 & 23, Greenbelt 2 Park

Alabang Town Center — Pre-Christmas Hi-lo, 16 April, November 19 to 19 and 23 to 25

Ayala Center Cebu — Monterey and Virginia Foods Event, November 15, 2pm to 7pm, Activity Center

Market! Market! — Jobstreet Job Fair, November 14 to 16, Activity Center

Christ Gifts — Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids, August - December 2007

Ayala Museum — Mythos Academy: Myth with Tyaka Da Silva, Sonango, November 17, 1pm, Trinoma Park

Mythos Academy: Sun Investigators with the Augustinian Lolita, December 8, 4pm, Activity Center

Tri Noma

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

BEOWULF

Visit our cinema ticketbooths at GLORIETTA 4 • GREENBELT 3 ALABANG TOWN CENTER MARKET! MARKET! • TRINOMA AYALA CENTER CEBU

or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations

OPENS NOVEMBER 14 AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Holiday Treats!

Free Christmas Gift Bag

Free Parking

Holiday Sale

glorietta GREENBELT Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Trinoma

Redeeming insights in seemingly chaotic lives

VICTA WRITING THIS REVIEW right after watching "El Cantante," he'd gotta to run before the movie ends in case Tru decided to get out of your way to see it, because the Marc Anthony and Jennifer Lopez starrer is an exceptional film bio of the Puerto Rican singing star, Hector Lavoe.

The Latin-American singer's life provides rich material for a biographical movie, because it's full of high and low points—fatalities, divorce, drugs, musical circles, extramarital affairs, AIDS, the death of a son, etc.

But, to the film's great credit, its treatment of this unfortunate's all never descends to the level of soppy weepers melodrama. Everything is seen through the rip-aroun eye of an artist searching for redeeming insights in seemingly chaotic lives.

Adding to the movie's authenticity is the fact that Lavoe's songs say a lot about the lives of artists torn between giving people what they have and feel in their audiences, and being blinded and compromised by self-absorption and the heady importunings of stardom.

Best of all, "El Cantante" showcases two exceptional performances rendered by by Marc Anthony as Hector and Jennifer Lopez as his wife, Paula.

This is the first time we've seen Marc Anthony act, and his generally quiet but complex performance truly impressed us. He credited various aspects of Lavoe's complicated persona and charged his members of the singing star's songs with compelling expressions and involvement.

Beyond standard

Pic starts even more impressed with Lopez's portrayal of Paula, because we've seen the actress in other performances that were merely predictable.

Then, she goes way beyond her standard portrayals, and nevertheless connects with the richness and edginess of her characterization.

It's quite a tour de force performance—star that, we must confess, we didn't think Lopez had it in her to achieve.

We hope that "El Cantante" finds a solid audience here, despite the fact that it's about a Latin-American singer who isn't well known in this country and whose songs are in Spanish. Not to worry on that score, though, since capsule English translations are provided.

If viewers here can get past those two inhibiting factors, they'll find that the film is extremely accessible in a Filipino audience in other respects. Its characters have life and music, they place great value on family ties, and they speak and act from the heart.

For music lovers

"El Cantante" may be best appreciated by music lovers and viewers such as artistic bent.

While its exciting may be tragic, scenes showing Lavoe in the throes of creative and felt performance spark volumes about the artist's relationship with his audience and his music, and provides the uplifting inspiration needed to balance the movie's downbeat denouement.

Author
C. Torre

Dennis'

From page F1

scene and go for this is one movie you'll love (unless for horror, or worse ... and for boops.

Promising films

Cinema One has created a venue for young and upcoming filmmakers to showcase their previous and get their much needed break in the industry via its annual independent film competition. Two of the most promising entries in Cinema One Originals are "Tuyuluhoy" and "Maling Akala."

Touching on poverty, guilt, and redemption, "Tuyuluhoy" focuses on one boy's (played by Jhon Manuel Arnaiz) valiant efforts for some sort of drama. Together with his friends (Mel Lauren and Gino Martin), he scrims of age and pursues his chosen silversurning adventure.

In real life, the former child star (who made us cry in "Magnifico") has really grown up. Jhon is now head over heels in love with an older woman.

"Walang Malay" is a romantic comedy about a young man's (Mickee Siana) pursuing, unmistakable amore. The may heighten: longstanding doubts about Mickee's gender but he's too much of a jerk to be bothered by that.

Don't miss these two heartwarming films on Nov. 22 to 25 at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday at 9.

In a world full of copies, here's to the #CinemaOne originals!

E-mail: ...

Kinabaliwan sa buong Asya...
Based on a TRUE Story
Sa gitna ng katiwalian at laganap na kahirapan darating na ang kakampi ng katarungan...
WALANG KINATATAKUTAN...
WALANG INUURUNGAN...
Judge Bao
Sponsored by Dusit INTERNATIONAL
REGENT
DREAM NYO BANG MAKAPUNTA SA BANGKOK NG LIBRE!
You can win a trip for two to Bangkok plus Dusit Hotel accommodation.
Maraming sorpresa ang nag aabang sa inyo, kaya't tumutok lang at panoorin ang
Judge Bao
Lunes hanggang Biyernes
10:00-10:30 ng gabi sa
ABC
simula Nov. 12, 2007.
THAI

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER G1

TAKE FIVE

KEN Chu, right, with "Rainorei" co-star Gil Lazaro

Ken do spirit

Taiwanese superstar's promise: 'I shall return'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos courtesy of Ignite Media and Roger Robles

BAGUIO, BATANGAS—HER PINOY fans will finally get to hear Ken Chu's real speaking voice—in a distant movie, no less.

On the TV hit "Meteor Garden," his voice, like the rest of the boy band F4, was dubbed by Filipino talents. In Adolf Alix's and Dave Balicanta's romance drama "Rainorei," Ken is using his own voice.

It wasn't just his voice he lent to the film, but his total commitment, says Ignite Media producer Arlene Carreon.

His management company was reportedly reluctant at first, but Ken insisted on accepting the project.

He also gave suggestions to improve the screenplay's Taiwan segments. He asked that his character's name be changed from Yi Fan to Kier, which was more modern," says Arlene.

In shooting the love scenes, he was just as accommodating, says Adolf.

"Originally we were limited to hand shots, but he allowed us to shoot his bare back, up to his waist," Adolf recounts.

On his last day in Batangas, Ken told Adolf: "I bet you that I'll be back."

Last June a week later, he was shooting additional scenes with his ex Valentine's, Sarangani.

"Ken assured me that he didn't want to rush and that he was willing to come back if need ed," Adolf says.

More significantly, the extra day of shoot was still part of his contract—meaning there's no extra pay.

"He stayed until 6 a.m. to finish his scenes with the crew, though his flight to Taiwan that same day was 12 noon," associate director Arman Reyes says.

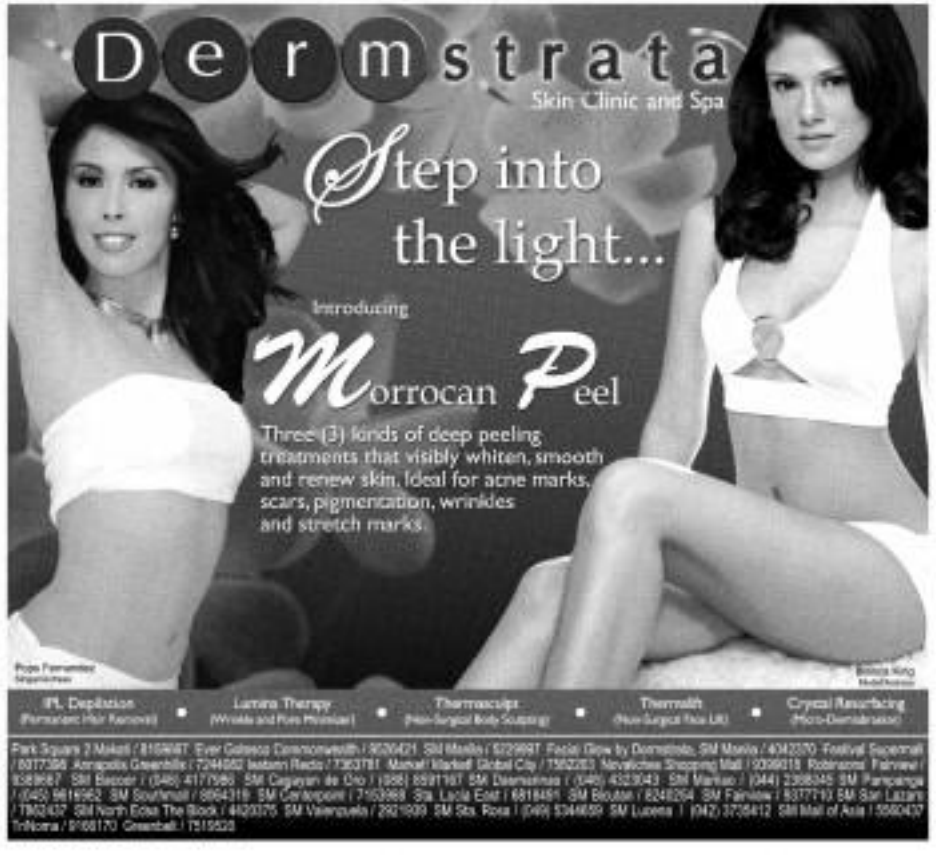
Adolf says that Ken promises to return for the movie's Manila premiere on Dec. 5.

What attracted you to the script of "Rainorei"?

I fell in love with the story. That was why I decided to do it. I liked the idea that Rainorei is actually closer to Taiwan and that there are Chinese/Taiwanese who dubbed in the island.

The conflict is real, the story powerful. I also like the love story.

What attracted you to the role?



A classic novella by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA

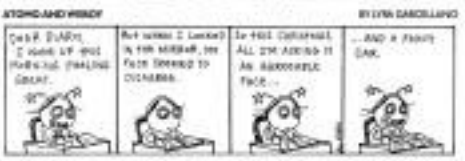
A-LIPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PAGAS DADDY — BY PH. JUNIOR

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEEDY — BY LYN DACOLLADO



LOVEBOOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

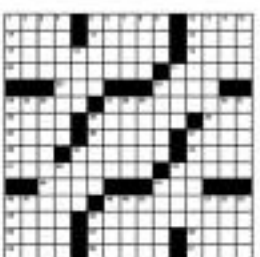
MIND MACHINE — BY FRANK ABREN

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

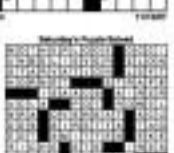
ACROSS
1 Tell-tales
5 Forbidden rule
10 Compliment
11 Ultra
12 Messenger
13 Nobel Prize winner
15 Kingdom
16 Cereal
17 Medical ingredient
18 Adhesive
21 Lake near Rome
22 Broadcast
23 Dispersion
24 Cyclothon
27 Vanishing command
32 Cartoon cat
33 Multi-talent
34 At this time
35 Television rival
36 "Wuthering Heights" author
37 Monetary unit
38 Admission contract
40 Electric device
41 Seek guidance
43 Handlebar
44 Extraordinary creative
45 Tattoo
46 Common term
47 Cereal brand
48 Dividend part
50 Ultimate figure
54 Reuters letter
55 Cereal ingredient
56 Cereal brand
57 Cereal company
58 Cereal company

DOWN
1 Tattoo artist's item at the desk
2 Cereal
3 Cereal
4 Mrs. Nesbit
5 Complex Biblical period
6 Wire carrier
7 Instrument
8 Religious people of Japan
9 Rotate
10 Hannah name
14 Gem anagram
19 Wedding item
21 Lincoln's dog
23 Miller's post
24 Vehicle
25 Cereal company
26 Lightly
27 Cereal brand
28 Ski wear
29 Cereal company
31 Cereal
34 Cereal company
36 Cereal company
37 Cereal company
39 Cereal company
40 Cereal company
41 Cereal company
42 Cereal company
43 Cereal company
44 Cereal company
45 Cereal company
46 Cereal company
47 Cereal company
48 Cereal company
49 Cereal company
50 Cereal company
51 Cereal company
52 Cereal company
53 Cereal company
54 Cereal company
55 Cereal company
56 Cereal company
57 Cereal company
58 Cereal company



By Fred Piscop, Jr., Morristown, N.J.

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

YOU WERE TODAY You're attractive, seductive and magnetically deadly alluring. (Pretty self-confident.) Those of you who are highly talented could be successful in the arts. Others of you are highly successful in business. Your friends are devoted but sometimes cause you distress by confusion. The year ahead finds many surprising partnerships and romances. An opportunity may present itself, enabling you to travel.

Birthdays Actor Nigel Hawthorne, singer Princess Anne Kelly, actress David Schwimmer, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 20) This is a good day to start the week. You're eager to learn more about life through education or travel. You want adventure. You're hungry for more of life!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your mind is on money today. You want to earn it. Today is not. Today is for those who prefer quiet. Phone calls are annoying.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is a marvelous day to arrange for the purchase of furniture and other comforts and conveniences. Your home is important to you. You'll feel nervously restless and confused about this. It's phase.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're not very much interested in money today and may even experience some guilt feelings about spending it. Don't worry. Your financial affairs will straighten themselves out. Relax.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) What's wonderful today is what it does to you! Every cell in your body is affected by the influence of the moon. You're more sensitive than usual. Your intuition is at its highest level today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) This is a good day to visit an art gallery, museum or theater. Intellectual conversations will be robust and informative. Social discussions of forms are probably revealing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Enthusiasm, energy and optimism are with you today. Your positive signals of social matters attract many. Sentiment is in the air. Romance is in your cookbook!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) This is an excellent day for business, and conversations in particular. Business trip is necessary. Be sure to get all the facts and information before publishing. Be careful. Higher education, medicine and the law is favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have a lot on your mind today. You make many quick, but logical and practical decisions. You're full of energy and enthusiasm. Be careful. Double-check your facts. Don't rely on others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You spend more money than you can afford today. You're beautiful to look at, but because you are short something else or make some poor decisions. Something will threaten your experience of the world.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) It's a wonderful day to start. Every thing is in your favor. Everything works out just the way you want it to. Be sure to make the most of your opportunities. Romance and flirtation are highlighted.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Today you may work slowly, carefully, methodically and with precision. Someone can teach you something important. Your ability to express yourself is at its highest level today. Be sure to express your needs through publishing and teaching yourself and to use less.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Concepts Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7			2		1	5	
5			1		8			6
1		2		3		8		
	4		8		1		6	
6		5				7		9
	2		7		5		3	
		8		1		5		2
3			2		4			1
	1	9		5			8	

Difficulty Level ★

11/13

©2000 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and progress at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	5	4	9	3	7	2	1
4	7	1	2	8	5	6	9	3
2	3	9	6	7	1	4	8	5
9	8	7	3	4	2	5	1	6
3	5	6	8	1	7	9	3	4
1	4	2	5	6	9	3	7	8
7	2	8	1	3	4	2	6	9
6	1	3	9	5	8	3	4	7
5	9	4	7	2	6	1	5	8

Eastwood City
Malaysia

Eastwood City's
PSYCHIC
Festival
November 9-14, 2007
Eastwood City
EASTWOOD CINEMAS
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS

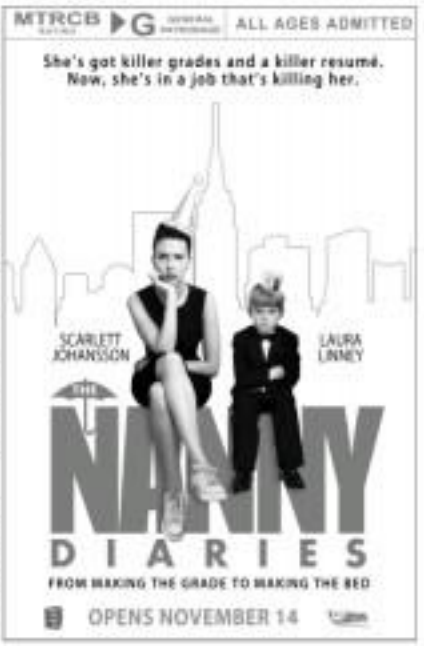
SHANG CINEPLEX
LIONS FOR LAMBS
WE OWN THE NIGHT
THE GAME PLAN
BALLS OF FURY
PREMIERE THEATRE
LUST CAUTION
Catch the Cineplex Special
Shang Cineplex 6-see Club

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
EL CANTANTE
SHE'S THE MAN
LIONS FOR LAMBS
SEVEN DAYS OF NIGHT
GAME PLAN
WE OWN THE NIGHT
LUST CAUTION
BALLS OF FURY

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MAP
PROMENADE

EVERYONE IS TALKING ABOUT THE BEST-REVIEWED COMEDY IN YEARS!
SUPERBAD
OPENS NOV. 14
THE 40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN

MTRCB PG-13
EVIL BREEDS PAIN
BEOWULF
NOVEMBER 14


MTRCB G
ALL AGES ADMITTED
She's got killer grades and a killer resumé.
Now, she's in a job that's killing her.
SCARLETT JOHANSSON
LAURA LINNEY
THE NANNY DIARIES
FROM MAKING THE GRADE TO MAKING THE BED
OPENS NOVEMBER 14

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

America returns for five-city RP tour

THE CLASSIC FOLK-ROCK group America returns to the Philippines after 26 years with a series of performances starting on Nov. 30 at Club Expo, Pasonanca, Zamboanga. Dec. 1, Cebu Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City; Dec. 2, La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod City; Dec. 4, Araneta Coliseum, Quezon City; and Dec. 5, Limketkai Riviera, Cagayan de Oro City.

Originally a trio of childhood friends who grew up in England because their American fathers were Air Force, presented classics in London, America became famous with worldwide hits like "A Horse With No Name," "I Need You," "Sandman," "Ventura Highway," "Sister Golden Hair" and many others.

It reportedly still maintains a large following, performing more than 100 shows a year with an ever-rotating members Gerry Beckley and Dewey Bunnell. "Here and Now" its latest studio album is over 20 years, has just been released. Call 9115555 for tickets to the Philippine concerts.

Muslihdaan grand finals

The 2007 Red Horse Muslihdaan grand finals is on Nov. 17 at the Marikina Sports Complex.

The winning band gets P800,000 cash. Other prizes at stake are the Breakthrough Performance Award; Oldies Cup; to Muslijah (Hadeer Choice) Award; and Al Hijab's Best Prissy Influence Award.

Some 20 guest bands led by Francisco de Filipe, Kamikazee and Sugarfree, aside from the competing finalists, are set to perform. Tickets at P500 available at the gate while it opens at 12 noon.

Ikaragma conference

Dubai Sultan Calubaig, Mary Mikaela Adrian Bangcaffeet and Nadine Lustre are among the performers at the Ikaragma Conference on Nov. 23, 24 and 25 at the Ultra, Pasig City.

The three-day conference, which will also feature guest speakers Christopher de Leon, Julius and Christine Babao, Bernadette Sembrano and other media personalities, gathers more ers and supporters of Ikaragma, the inspirational magazine published by young preacher Bo Sanchez.

Call 7250000 or log on to www.ikaragmaconference.com.

Tomorrow

SHOW TIME

Water of the 70s at Cebu Libre, Sunmall Lus Pilar. Call 874-0355.

Nov. 14

Bamars at Cebu Libre, Sunmall, Las Piñas.

Cumbia at Bali's Point features Cenen Quezon City.

Nov. 15

Ana Fegi and Ted Failonso at Mo88 Bar Bistro. Call 757-4526 or 21.

Fe Mann at Cebu Libre, Sunmall Libis, Mandaluyong. Call 718-5798.

Nov. 16

Al Jo-de las Alas at the Annex Collection.

Regine Velasquez, 8:30 p.m. at Alter Theater, Star City Complex, Manila.

Barrio Republik at Cebu Libre, Sunmall Libis.

Shamrock at Illoco Room, Monteverde, Pasig.

Nov. 17

Freddie Aguilar at LA Cafe, Ayala.

Joy-N at Cantonic Bar, Manila Oriental Hotel, Makati.

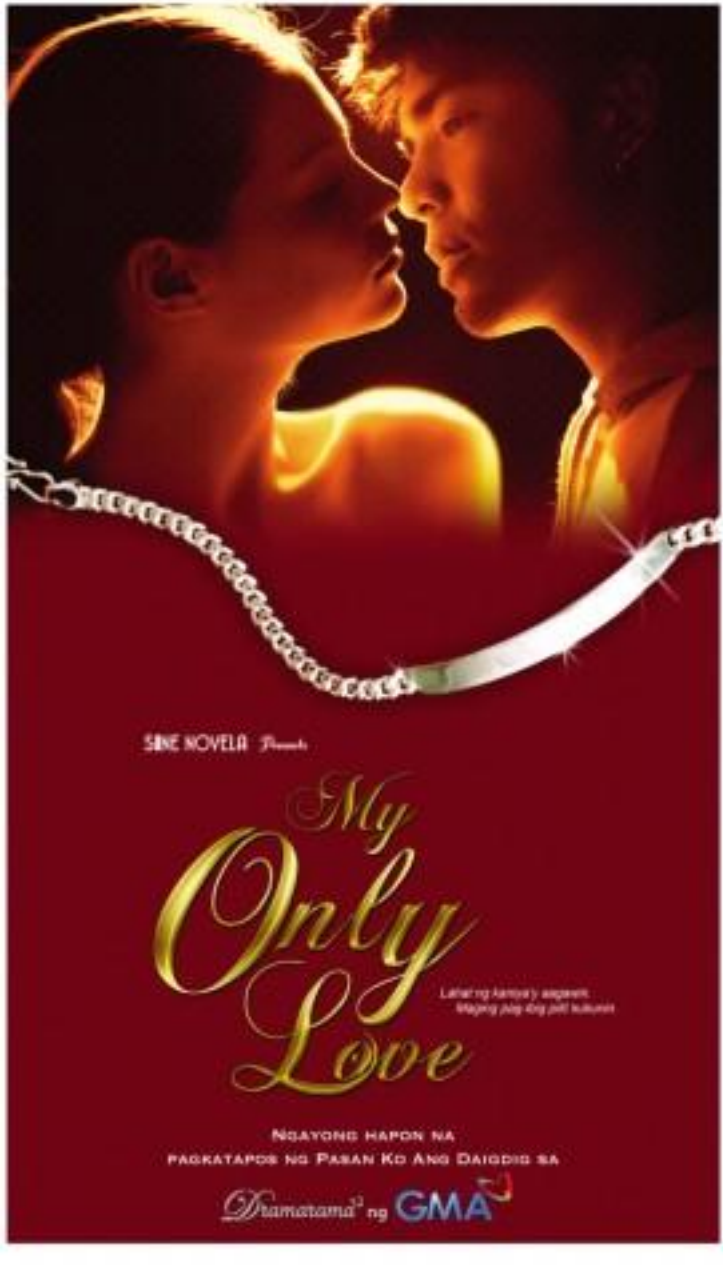
Nov. 18

Ana Fegi and Ted Failonso at Captain's Bay, Manila Oriental Hotel, Makati.

Nov. 23

Regine Velasquez, 8:30 p.m. at Alter Theater, Star City Complex, Manila.

Julienne and Miguel Faraon, 8 p.m. at Filipino Stainless Bldg. 1129 Igan st. (formerly Emerald Ave.), Pasig.



Ken . . .

From page 03

I have to say that this is the hardest role I've ever done because there are very few lines and we really had to rely on body language. Luckily, my partner has a supportive and talkous me to do the part well.

How similar are you to your character?

We're both Taiwanese. [Laughs] Well, I'm also into many sports like scuba diving. I just started surfing. It helped that I knew a few Taiwanese in my country. One thing I share with Ken is our affection for the ocean. That was why it wasn't hard to understand and develop the character.

What is it like working with directors Adolf and Jerry?

Adolf is one of the best directors I've worked with. He knows exactly what he wants. Even if we're on a hurry, Dave remains cool. He's also very passion about the cinematography, which is good because that means we have great shots.

What are your hopes for this film?

I hope that this movie will be shown in other countries. It's good because it combines art and commerce.

What do you mean by "fusion" and Asian co-productions as the wave of the future?

The entertainment industry has been messed up for a while. But since the Asian market is growing bigger, what Asian artists need to do is collaborate on different projects. By sharing ideas, we will become stronger and we'll be able to fight the so-called Western invasion. But the first step is to educate people about copyright laws and the harmful effects of piracy.

What is it like working with the other Filipino actors?

I love them. They're like family to me now. Jiel (Sandoval) is a very funny guy. We get along well. We talked about boxing and martial arts.

Uncle Bros (Bembol Roco) is the coolest guy on earth. One day, we were shooting in a beach and he suddenly said: "The ocean is calling me." Then, he jumped into the water. He's so cool.

How were the people?

The people are friendly and simple. The only problem is they drink too much [laughs].

Are you planning to buy property in Batanes?

I'm thinking of investing here. This is a very promising site. But I think that the major problem Batanes is facing now is not developing the place, but preserving its beauty.

If I'm allowed to invest here, the first thing I'll do is to improve the people's living conditions—provide better education, better medical care.

What will you tell your friends in Taiwan about Batanes?

I will tell them how beautiful the place is. But I will not try to convince them to come here. [Laughs] I would like to keep it private for a while. Exclusive to myself.